



10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP NEW MILFORD SOCIAL SERVICES OVER THE HOLIDAYS:

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1. **Top priority: Adopt a child or family through the Santa Fund.** Donors buy a gift card for clothing and a new special toy/gift requested by the child. Contact Megan at santafund.nmct@gmail.com.
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2. ****Purchase gift cards for our young tweens & teens.** (Gift card ideas: local movie theater, pizza restaurants, ice cream/ yogurt shops, coffee or smoothie shops (Cumberland Farms/ D.D.), gaming stores, general merchandise or clothing stores; \$10 – \$20 denominations). Other ideas include: sporting goods, jewelry, and body wash/lotion or body spray gift baskets. **Books! Books! Books!**
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3. Help neighbors cope with emergency needs (utility, medical, childcare, household costs, etc.) by **making a donation to our Good Samaritan Fund.** All donations go directly to basic needs support of New Milford families in financial crisis and special Social Services programs. Donations can be done online at www.newmilford.org/socialservices ; or stop in or mail to our office @ 2 Pickett District Road.
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4. **Purchase a gift card to be given to a disabled adult for the holidays.** Greatest requests are for food, gas, Wal-Mart gift cards and HART bus passes. Trying to keep up with the cost of basic needs can be challenging for someone on a fixed Social Security disabled income.
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5. **Organize a food drive** in your office, club, congregation, at a family gathering, as an alternate gift for holiday gatherings, etc. Bring non-perishable items to Social Services for the New Milford Food Bank. Greatest needs: tuna and other canned meats, soups and broths, low-sugar canned fruits, low-sodium vegetables and beans, white rice, stew, pasta sauce, pb & jelly, cereal, paper towels, toilet and facial tissues, Lg size diapers (size 4-7). *Then remember the Food Bank after the holidays, as hunger knows no season!*
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6. **Purchase children's hats, mittens, scarves or gloves;** these are distributed with gifts at the holidays. Deliver to Social Services in early December. ***Greatest needs are hats/scarves and adult- size gloves for older youth.***
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7. **Purchase toys or gift cards** for children and help the New Milford Police event: **“Stuff a Cruiser”**. Usually held the first Saturday in December. Ideas: Legos, learning toys, dolls, board games, movie themed toys like Star Wars and other Disney/children movies.
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8. **Buy adult gloves and warm socks** to be distributed to struggling adults.
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9. **Hold a holiday party and determine an “alternate gift”** from one of the above needs to ask your guests to bring. (or a collection that can be given to our emergency funds “most in need”) Please contact Social Services with advanced notice if your event is large!
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10. **Purchase personal care products and household cleaners** for our food bank families.



A BIG THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!