



Town of Foster

Est. 1781

Department of Social Services

TO: FOSTER TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: Department of Social Services
DATE: February 10, 2022
RE: Monthly Report for January 2022

208

Number of referrals/contacts/assistance and follow-up calls made this month

SENIOR INFORMATION:

1. **Office of Healthy Aging (OHA)** - no new grant activity.
2. **Senior Services Legislative Grant** – Received application for FY2022 RI Senate Legislative Community Service Grant Program for both senior services and social services. Application due February 7, 2022.
3. **Young at Heart** - Meetings are on hold given the Covid-19 pandemic.

TEEN FUND UPDATE: no funds were used this month.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND:

+ \$882.80

Received from private donations, businesses, churches.

- \$839.00

Used for heating assistance, bill assistance.

DHS LEGISLATIVE GRANT: Received application for FY2022 RI Senate Legislative Community Service Grant Program for both senior services and social services. Application due February 7, 2022.

THE SALVATION ARMY:

* Service Unit Activity – no new activity

MONTHLY COMMODITIES, FOOD PANTRY & FOOD DONATION INFORMATION:

USDA Monthly Commodities: 19 Households 64 Individuals

- Households received bag(s) of food from the pantry shelves along with their commodities. Residents are being allowed into food pantry with a mask and physical distancing.
- Food donations were received from individuals, churches, local business and Brigido's IGA (bread & pastries) and Gloucester resident (bread/pastry snacks).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- **LIHEAP Information Session:** Foster DSS collaborated with Dawn Taylor Church (CCAP's LIHEAP outreach coordinator) and held an information session at the Ben Eddy building on 1/12 from 5-7PM. Although only one person attended the event, we were able to help that individual apply for LIHEAP. This person now utilizes DSS and the food pantry. It was a learning experience to see the turnout of an event like this in Foster. Although it was well advertised, I think it would be more effective next time to "piggy-back" off of another social event in Foster, in hopes of spreading useful information about resources that are available to Foster residents.
- **North Foster Baptist Church** – Sparrow's Nest collects cleaning and hygiene products as their community mission project. Heather Arnold runs the Sparrow's Nest with her Mother, Sandy. Donations are accepted through the DSS office. January's Sparrow's Nest was cancelled due to ice that weekend. If there is a parking ban or inclement weather in Foster, Heather decided that the Sparrow's Nest will not run that day. Sparrow's Nest will be distributing products curbside due to COVID concerns.
- **Foster Home Journal** – Articles were submitted for food pantry wish list, tax preparation assistance through CCAP (VITA), RI Property Tax Relief information, fire wood donations (the wood shed is empty!), LIHEAP information.
- **Foster Churches Association** – FCA meeting was held on January 24th. Hilary Downes Fortune joined our meeting to discuss Foster's environmental needs and opportunities for local Churches to get involved in environmental discussion and action. Plans for Earth Day were discussed. Next FCA meeting scheduled for March 28, 2022 on Zoom.
- **Community Enhancement Grant** – RIPTA has not confirmed an arrival date for the van but expects further delays. No new update.
- **Covid19 - DSS** is allowing access to the office following social distancing and wearing a mask.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Allison Bouchard

Director of Social Services