



SEASON OF GIVING

After a successful initial effort in 2016, the Town of Somers Human Services Department is launching the second annual Season of Giving campaign. The goal of this campaign is to raise awareness of programs in Somers that benefit our residents in need in an effort to increase community involvement and contributions. Oftentimes, people want to help but they simply don't know how. The Season of Giving campaign focuses on several ways in which you can care for your neighbors in need. *We hope that you will consider making a contribution or getting involved this holiday season and that this information helps you to know where your contributions will go and who they will help. If you cannot contribute financially, please consider donating your time. Please open your hearts during the Season of Giving.*

♥ TOWN OF SOMERS EMERGENCY FUND

Did you know that you can make a donation to a fund that is utilized only by the Town of Somers Human Services Department to assist low income families in Somers with basic needs and emergency situations? Residents who are struggling financially are able to utilize the fund for heat, electricity, rent, or any number of other extenuating circumstances. This fund is utilized throughout the entire year, but especially during the winter heating season. Without your donations, this fund does not exist. There are policies in place and an application process to avoid any misuse of the fund. Checks can be made payable to Town of Somers Emergency Fund and sent to: Town of Somers Human Services Department, 19 Battle Street, Somers, CT 06071.

♥ FOOD PANTRIES

Did you know that there are two food pantries in Somers? Champ's Place is located at the Somers Congregational Church at 599 Main St. Donations of food are accepted in the church office Monday through Thursday from 9:30am-3pm. However, monetary donations are preferred, as storage space is an issue and items can be purchased at Foodshare at a reduced cost. Checks can be made payable to Somers Congregational Church with "Champ's Place" in the memo section. All Saint's Food Pantry is located at All Saint's Church at 25 School St. Donations of non-perishable items can be dropped off anytime in the basement entryway. Monetary donations can be made payable to All Saint's Church with "food pantry" in the memo section. Please check all food donations for expiration dates and also remember that hygiene items such as toilet paper, paper towels, soap, laundry detergent, etc. are accepted and encouraged as well, as these items are not covered by SNAP (food stamps).

♥ MEALS ON WHEELS

The Town of Somers Meals on Wheels (MOW) program has been operating continuously for 36 years independent of support from federal, state or local government funds. The program provides meals 6 days a week, 52 weeks a year. It not only provides necessary nutrition, but also is a daily wellness check for our frail, elderly residents, many of whom live alone. Meals are graciously prepared by Hometown Kitchen Restaurant. Clients with financial need are able to apply for the MOW subsidy program to reduce the cost of their meals. The subsidy program utilizes income and asset guidelines similar to state and federal assistance programs. The funding to be able to provide this subsidy as well as funding for all MOW related supplies comes entirely from donations. The number of clients on the MOW program continues to increase and the funds to support the program are running low. We ask for your help to replenish the Somers MOW fund. Your donation will help to ensure that homebound seniors in the Town of Somers continue to receive warm meals and daily contact with volunteers, greatly improving their safety, well-being, and quality of life. Checks can be made payable to: Town of Somers Meals on Wheels Program and sent to: Town of Somers Human Services, 19 Battle St., Somers, CT 06071. The MOW program is also always in need of volunteers to deliver meals. If you are interested in this rewarding volunteer opportunity, please contact MOW coordinator Christina Cenac at 860-265-7551 or Ccenac@somersct.gov.

♥ STUFF-A-CRUISER

Keep an eye out for the "Stuff-a-Cruiser", an annual event coordinated by the Somers Women's Club. Stuff-a-Cruiser takes place at the Somers Police Department at 451 Main Street. You can drop off new, unwrapped toys at this location. All items collected come to the Somers Human Services Department and are distributed to families in need in town.

♥ SALVATION ARMY KETTLE CAMPAIGN

Have you ever wondered where your money goes when you drop it into the red kettle of the bell ringers at holiday time? The Town of Somers Human Services Department is part of a service unit for the Salvation Army and receives funds from the Salvation Army annually to help meet the needs of our low-income residents and part of our role as a service unit is to assist in coordination of the Kettle Campaigns. *90% of funds raised through the Kettle Campaigns stay in our service unit.* We are able to purchase items at a much lower cost when we utilize our Salvation Army funds. To ensure that funds remain in your community, be sure to drop your donation into the red kettle when you see it in Somers! The kettle campaign cannot be successful without volunteers. If you are willing to donate an hour or two of your time this holiday season to ring the bell, please contact Deanna Schuetz at 860-265-7550 or Dschuetz@somersct.gov.

♥ ADOPT-A-CHILD HOLIDAY PROGRAM

This program assists low-income families with providing gifts for their children for the holidays. The program is entirely anonymous. Donors "adopt" a child (or more than one child) and receive a list of items the child needs as well as a few "wishes" and some general information about the child's interests/hobbies/etc. so the donor truly has the opportunity to get to know their child. Gifts are dropped off at the Human Services office by a specified date and staff provides the gifts to the family. Recipients write an anonymous thank you note to their donors so that donors can experience a connection with the family. This program is truly a fun and rewarding experience for those who get involved. Most donors return year after year, as it becomes part of their holiday tradition. There are no set expectations such as dollar amounts for our donors. Some donors choose to adopt one child, some adopt several. It is entirely up to the donor what they are able to contribute. Any help to these families is appreciated. This program cannot exist without our donors. If you are interested in adopting a child this holiday season, please contact Christina Cenac at 860-265-7551 or Ccenac@somersct.gov.