

- Worked on the Healthy Concord Youth Stress Advisory Committee to bring stress reduction and mindfulness education and training to community partners and youth.
- Youth Substance Abuse & Care Coalition – a group of community-wide stakeholders who meet quarterly and hold facilitated discussions to share concerns, priorities, perspectives, actions underway, actions needed, etc.
- Community Chest Holiday Gift Drive assisting 36 families, representing 87 children.

In addition to these events, the YSC launched and kept updated a Facebook page; instituted a quarterly e-newsletter with Community Services; set up a full listing of resource links under Youth Services on the Town of Concord's website; published a wallet sized laminated Youth Resource Card; and was a very frequent contributor to the *Concord Journal* with upbeat articles highlighting achievements of our youth.

A highlight for Youth Services in 2014 was the development of outreach materials to educate residents about resources and services available to youth and families. Residents can request the new Youth Resources Wallet Card, 2014 Social Services Resource Guide or join the Youth and Family Services newsletter listserv by visiting www.concordma.gov/youth or contacting Jennifer Clarke at jclarke@concordma.gov.

HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

J. Raymond Andrews
 Paul LoVecchio
 Susan Eckel
 Christopher Corkery
 Judy Terry

In 2014, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 210 years ago by Concordian Hugh Cargill. The Trust's purpose is to provide short-term emergency assistance to residents of the Town in times of financial need. The Committee acts on behalf of the Board of Selectmen in receiving and reviewing requests for assistance and in distributing funds in accordance with the provisions of the Trust. Concord residents request aid by leaving a phone message at the Town House: 978-318-3100, ext. 2030. Calls are returned promptly. All requests are kept confidential.

Funds totaling \$140,890 were received in 2014 from the following sources: The Hugh Cargill Trust Fund: \$15,074; Private donations to the Hugh Cargill Fund: \$11,210; the Concord Municipal Light Plant: \$14,000; Board of Selectmen Tax Relief Fund: \$100,586; Concord Cares: \$20; these generous contributions from the above mentioned sources were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 77 grants totaling \$22,558 from the Hugh Cargill Trust and donor fund. The average grant was \$293. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, gas, telephone and water). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, car repairs, medical expenses, and insurance. The Committee also administered the abatement program for municipal curbside recycling and waste collection funded by Concord Public Works.

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee has been designated by the Board of Selectmen to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Town's annual appeal. Forty seven Concord residents received a reduction in their Real Estate Tax bill each quarter. That quarterly reduction was increased from \$250/quarter to \$275/quarter. The total allocation in 2014 was \$50,225.

The Hugh Cargill Trust also keeps track of the funds dispersed by Concord Cares for citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. The total funds dispersed in 2014 were \$3,254 to eleven Concord citizens. The Trust does not authorize these distributions. That is done by other Concord services such as the Community Services Coordinator, the Police Dept., Fire Dept., the COA and others.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through local communications such as the *Concord Journal* and the Adult & Continuing Education publications and contacts with the Silent Fund, the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, Open Table, the Salvation Army, local clergy, and other groups.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2015 could be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations to continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to: The Hugh Cargill Trust at the Town House, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.