

Referrals were made to food assistance programs, home mortgage counseling programs, job assistance agencies, counseling services, tax assistance programs, Concord Cares, energy efficiency programs, fuel assistance, scholarship information, lower-income legal services, disability advocacy and support services and after-school and camp programs.

Emergency referrals related to housing, food assistance and utility assistance continued in 2012 and the Community Services Coordinator provided short-term case management to those families and individuals in crisis, working closely with such agencies as Hugh Cargill Trust, Society for St. Vincent de Paul, The Clergy Laity Group, and The Salvation Army to provide families in need with emergency financial assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator continues to collaborate with community agencies that provide assistance to Concord and Carlisle families. The Community Services Coordinator assists with the Gaining Ground Farm's Food for Families program that served over 45 families free organic produce between April and September. The Community Services Coordinator makes contact with challenged Concord individuals and families and provides referrals for a variety of needed services. The Community Services Coordinator also works collaboratively with Concord Public schools, Concord Housing Authority and The Domestic Violence Services Network to provide outreach to challenged families.

The Community Services Coordinator continues to be a point of contact in conjunction with Council on Aging, Police and Fire Departments as well as Concord's Veteran's Agent and Youth Services Coordinator for the Concord Cares Emergency Fuel Assistance Program, which provides 75 gallons of home heating oil to any Concord resident who is in emergency need.

Residents can contact the Community Service Coordinator by phone or schedule a confidential appointment, either in the office or their home, to discuss their particular referral needs.

For additional information or assistance, please contact the Community Services Office at 105 Everett St.

YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Erin Duggan,
Youth Services Coordinator

The position of Youth Services Coordinator for Concord and Carlisle was launched in 2011 with funding from the Community Chest. Coordinator Erin Duggan was hired to help improve the quality of life for Concord and Carlisle school-aged young people. She assists children by finding counseling for, and providing advice about, the problems they are struggling to deal with.

The Youth Coordinator develops and maintains programs that enhance physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being for children as well as adults. This past year she partnered with Concord Carlisle Parent Initiative and 2Volunteer.

Youth Coordinator works with many Town agencies to allocate space and resources for these activities. For example, several of her programs utilize available space in Town libraries while outdoor activities often involve equipment that is made available by the Recreation Department.

To reach Erin Duggan, call (978)318-3043 or email eduggan@concordma.gov, 105 Everett St.

HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

G. Peter Healey, Chair
J. Raymond Andrews, Treasurer
Patricia MacAlpine, Clerk
Paul LoVecchio
Sandra Conrad

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 \$96,242.65 were received from the following sources: The Hugh Cargill Trust Fund: \$146.70;

private donations to the Hugh Cargill Trust: \$14,981; the Concord Municipal Light Plant: \$14,000; Board of Selectmen Tax Relief Fund: \$61,856; Concord Cares: \$5,258.95; 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 111 grants totaling \$28,559.25. The average grant was \$257.29. 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.

For the sixth year, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee was designated by the Board of Selectmen to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Selectman's annual appeal. For the year ending with the Nov. 1 billing quarter, 43 Concord households received a \$200 per quarter reduction in their tax bill. The total amount of grants was \$34,200 for the past 4 quarters. The Board of Selectmen authorized the continuation of a Tax Relief Committee which oversee the solicitation of funds for tax relief. The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee will continue to oversee the disbursement of any funds raised.

The Hugh Cargill Trust also keeps track of the funds disbursed by Concord Cares for citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. The funds disbursed were \$4,701.69. The Trust does not authorize these distributions. Disbursement is made by the Community Services Coordinator, the Council on Aging, and the Police and Fire Departments as needed.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through local communications such as the Concord Journal 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 2013 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.

TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE



From left: Terry Rothermel, John Lombard, Chair; Demi Ayres

The Tax Relief Committee was established by the Board of Selectmen in 2011 to carry out work previously done by the Selectmen. The essential task of the Committee is to plan, develop, and implement annually a systematic effort to raise voluntary contributions from the citizens of Concord to assist homeowners in demonstrable financial need in meeting their real estate tax obligations. Applicants are reviewed by the members of the Hugh Cargill Trust who, in turn, distribute quarterly checks to eligible parties.

Begun in the fall of 2011, the first solicitation of the new Tax Relief Committee resulted in receipt of \$54,510 from 177 donors in 2012. The proceeds from this initiative allowed 43 applicants to receive checks totaling \$200 per quarter. The donor list was developed from a previous database and expanded to include citizens who had moved to Concord in the past five years.

In reviewing the 2011-2012 effort, the Tax Relief Committee decided to undertake an all-Town solicitation in the fall of 2012, and every three years thereafter, in order to inform more fully the citizens of Concord regarding the ongoing needs of some of its citizens to meet their tax obligation, to invite voluntary donations to assist those in need, to expand the donor base and increase available funds, and to nurture a culture of generosity in enabling individuals of varying income levels and economic means to own property and reside in Concord. Public relations efforts were expanded to inform and