

COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR



Julia Crozier
Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator position was established in 2005. Funded by a grant from the Community Chest, the purpose of the less-than 20 hour a week position is to assist Concord and Carlisle residents, 60 years and under, in accessing information on a broad range of local, privately funded and State services including financial and fuel assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator continued to aid individuals and families in accessing needed services on a variety of fronts. Referrals more than doubled over the course of the year; from 190 to approximately 450. Referrals were made to home mortgage counseling programs, job assistance agencies, counseling services, tax assistance programs, Concord Cares weatherization assistance, energy efficiency programs, fuel assistance, scholarship information, lower-income legal services, disability advocacy and support services, counseling services and after-school and camp programs.

Emergency referrals related to housing, food assistance and utility assistance rose significantly 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 and the Clergy Laity Group to provide families in need with emergency financial assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator continued to collaborate with community agencies that provide assistance to Concord and Carlisle families, assisting with Gaining Ground Farm's Food for Families program which served 45 families free organic produce and continued monthly visits to Open Table, Inc.

making contact with challenged Concord individuals and families to provide referrals to a variety of needed services. Community Services Coordinator also worked collaboratively with Concord Public Schools to provide outreach to challenged families.

The Community Services Coordinator is a point of contact for the Concord Cares program, which provides emergency fuel assistance and weatherization materials to residents. During the 'weatherization blitz', weatherization materials were installed by Concord volunteers, free of charge. Materials continue to be available at both the Community Services Coordinator office as well as the COA office for any Concord resident to personally install. In addition, the Community Services Coordinator continues to be a point of contact, in conjunction with Council on Aging, Police and Fire Departments for the Concord Cares Emergency Fuel Assistance Program, which provides 75 gallons of home heating oil free 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.

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HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

Sandra Conrad, Chair
Walter Miles, Jr., Treasurer
Patricia MacAlpine, Clerk
Henry Devlin
Gordon Fraser

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 200 years ago by Concordian Hugh Cargill, to provide short-term 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: 978-318-3100, ext. 2030. Calls are returned within 24 hours. All requests are kept confidential.

Funds totaling \$66,260.86 were received from the following sources: The Board of Selectman's Appeal donations designated for assistance with local property taxes and fuel assistance—\$23,615; the Concord Municipal Light Plant—\$26,000. Town of Concord Conserves—\$920 and \$15,725.86 from private donors. The generous contributions from these sources were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 175 grants totaling \$51,914.09. This figure represents an 11% increase over 2008. The average grant was \$300.00. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, and gas). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, medical expenses, phone service and insurance. The Committee also administered the abatement program for municipal curbside recycling and waste collection funded by Concord Public Works.

The Trust was designated by the Board of Selectmen to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Selectman's annual appeal. Two hundred and five awards totaling \$61,500 were approved. Fifty households benefited from the tax-relief program.

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee is the custodial accountant for the Concord Cares Fund. The Board of Selectmen, Town agencies and other agencies implemented the fund in 2008 to provide emergency fuel assistance as well as free weatherization services. Concord Cares received donations of \$14,077.56. Twelve emergency grants for fuel assistance were made totaling \$1,612.71. The grants are made primarily through the offices of the Community Services Coordinator and the Council on Aging in conjunction with the Town Manager's Office, Board of Health, and Public Safety Departments.

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

In light of the continuing difficult economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2010 will be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations

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to continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to: The Hugh Cargill Trust, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.

CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMITTEE

It was a time of transition for the Library Committee as Barbara Powell retired in the summer after many years of service. The new Library Director, Kerry Cronin, came to the library in August and the Library Committee has spent much of the fall helping Kerry adjust to her new role.

Amidst these changes, the Library Committee continued in its role of supporting the Library Director, meeting with the Library staff, assisting with exhibits, lectures, and presentations and outreach to Concord schools. Some highlights of 2009 include:

- Meeting with Karen Ahearn, Head of Children's Services, in which Karen highlighted the continued growth of the Library's summer reading program, the Summer Concerts series, the very successful Concord Reads event in March with its theme of "Food for Thought," and the Children's staff ongoing work with Concord elementary, middle and high schools.
- A visit to the Library Committee from Charlie Paige of CCTV, in which Charlie discussed how CCTV videotapes Library programs. Charlie is working with Caroline Nie, Head of Technical Services, on getting more high school volunteers involved in this process, with the long term prospect of having Library programs available as DVDs, on CCTV and the internet.
- Meeting with Curator of Special Collections, Lesley Perrin Wilson, who gave the Library Committee an in-depth outline of her activities including upcoming exhibitions, web activities, school programs, lectures, publications, preservation projects grant initiatives, and the oral history project.
- Working with the Library Director in updating some Library policies, such as the Safe Child Policy and the Direct-to-You Home Delivery Service Policy.
- Meeting at the Fowler Branch to continue planning for the renovations of the Fowler, the ramifications for Library staffing and a continuation of service in West Concord as the Fowler branch is renovated.
- Meeting with Caroline Nie, Head of Technical Services, who gave us an overview of her Department's work, such as adding 14,000 new items to the collection in FY '09, working on public wi-fi access, which increased to about