

## YCAN Programs

Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors (YCAN) is an all-volunteer group of community-minded Yarmouth residents who provide support services to community members in need. Residents who do not have the means to purchase fuel needed to warm their homes during the winter, or sufficient food and clothing for their family, or for other critical needs, can find assistance from a number of programs that YCAN supports.

YCAN is registered as a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Our areas of focus include:

### **FUEL ASSISTANCE**

YCAN provides funding for Fuel Assistance and home weatherization awards to Yarmouth residents, and sets the policies used to disburse them. The Town of Freeport General Assistance Office manages all General Assistance services to Yarmouth residents.

This fund helps around 35 Yarmouth households each year.

### **FOOD PANTRY**

YCAN provides bookkeeping support, helps build awareness of, and raises funds for the Yarmouth Community Food Pantry.

Housed at the First Parish Congregational Church on Main Street, the Food Pantry helps about 75 families (200+ people) per month. It also offers qualifying adults \$15 vouchers towards food at the Yarmouth Farmers' Market.

### **NUTRITION CLOSET**

School Guidance/Social Work staff provide weekend nutrition for students with unstable access to food at home during the school year.

### **LUNCH CRUNCH**

YCAN and Yarmouth Community Services address summer food insecurity by serving a free breakfast and lunch during the summer at Yarmouth Pointe Apartments. Open to all children between the ages of 2-18, it's also a free camp experience!

### **THE RIDES PROGRAM**

Volunteer drivers provide free rides to those who cannot drive and need rides to local events, medical appointments, or errands.

During 2016, 25 volunteer drivers donated 705 hours to help residents get where they needed to go, many of them weekly.

### **RESOURCE GUIDE**

The YCAN Resource Guide lists the service providers, funding agencies, churches, and others who are most likely to be useful to residents needing help, or who wish to help out in and around Yarmouth. It can be downloaded from our web site, or found in Merrill Library or Town Hall.

### **AGING IN PLACE**

Volunteers are implementing the plan to develop programs for transportation, accessibility, social opportunities, volunteerism, health services, economic security, communication & coordination of services, and housing options. All are welcome to help create and/or utilize these services.

### **PROJECT HOLIDAY**

Many Yarmouth residents, businesses, and civic organizations support this program. It provides Yarmouth families in need with meals and gifts for their children during the Holidays. YCAN helps with distribution and coordination.

During the 2016 holidays, this effort helped about 250 people with holiday meal fixings, and provided gifts for around 100 children.

### **OPERATION BUNDLE-UP**

Volunteers collect gently used or outgrown winter outerwear, inspect and clean them, and distribute them to those in need.

Around 200 coats, 15 pairs of boots, and 80 additional warm clothing items find new homes through this program each year.

### **COMMUNITY CENTER**

With support from YCAN, a steering committee is researching possible roles and locations for a Yarmouth Community Center.

### **FUNDRAISING**

The Yarmouth Cares Fund is an annual YCAN campaign which typically raises over \$35,000 in financial support for many of the programs with which we are affiliated.

In recent years, funds raised have supported **Fuel Assistance**, the **Yarmouth Community Food Pantry**, **Lunch Crunch**, the **Nutrition Closet**, **Project Holiday**, **Aging in Place**, Farmer's Market vouchers (available at 317 Main St & Food Pantry), and other efforts to meet Yarmouth needs.

### **YCAN Board**

Leslie Hyde (President), Beth Costello (Vice President), Art Bell (Treasurer), Lynn Hynes (Secretary), Leigh Kirchner, Suzanne Muir, Jean Rafford, Sue Rowe, Peter Small

Would **you** like to help and/or join our Board?  
Please contact us!

## YCAN Resources

YCAN's greatest resource, the one we rely on time and again, is the Yarmouth community.

We help our neighbors enthusiastically, raise funds when needed, and keep our community informed via a Resource Guide, a Facebook page, and a website ([ycan.info](http://ycan.info)). We rely on many talented and experienced volunteers who manage our budget with care and are committed to our mission.

Our primary goals are:

- To help programs, often ones led by others, find talent, build awareness, and/or raise money.
- To initiate conversations in our community that lead to needs being met.

The Yarmouth community has much talent and compassion, and many resources... we collaborate to allow:

- those who want to help to do so
- those who need help to get it

### How can I help my neighbors?

You may donate cash to the Yarmouth Cares Fund, food to the Yarmouth Community Food Pantry, gift buying to Project Holiday, driving time, and more. You may volunteer occasionally, for a specific project, or regularly.

YCAN is always looking for volunteers to serve on our Board and/or help with community organizing, fundraising, event planning, communications, driving, etc. Perhaps you have an idea for a project or program that you'd like to help establish and organize... we are here to help you make a difference. Check out our website and get involved!



### Where to send donations

#### Financial Donations:

Yarmouth CAN  
P.O. Box 553  
Yarmouth, ME 04096

#### Food Pantry Goods:

First Parish Congregational Church  
116 Main Street  
*or*  
Town Hall  
200 Main Street  
(opposite the main desk)

#### Operation Bundle-Up:

Town Hall  
200 Main Street  
(opposite the main desk)

#### Learn more about donating at

[ycan.info](http://ycan.info)



### **Building Community One Neighbor at a Time**

- Fuel Assistance
- Food Pantry
- Nutrition Closet
- Lunch Crunch
- Rides Program
- Resource Guide
- Aging in Place
- Project Holiday
- Operation Bundle-Up
- Community Center
- Yarmouth Cares Fund

**Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors**

**P.O. Box 553**

**Yarmouth ME 04096**

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