

# **Yarmouth Community Corona Virus Task Force Report May 6, 2020**

## **Call Center. Margaret and Tom Downing**

1. Call volume continues to be low. Responses are being made in a timely manner.
2. Call Center shifts have been filled by our faithful volunteers.
3. YCS has copied and folded over two thousand of the new newsletters.
4. Carla and Margaret are in the process of distributing the flyers.

## **Neighborhood Communicator—Carla Hunt**

#YarmouthGratitudeProject is in full swing. We celebrated health workers last week and teachers this week. Next week, food producers and distributors are up. Individual acts of gratitude continue.

As of Tuesday, over 1850 flyers are out for distribution through 31 communicators and 7 volunteers. More will be going out in the coming days.

A number of communicators are interested in advocating for identifying cases by town, more testing, and contact tracing. A draft of a letter is in process.

## **Emotional Support — Leslie Hyde**

I'm happy to welcome a new member of our team, Richard Farmer, with impressive credentials. There is little activity for us, but I am meeting with Carla and the Neighborhood Communicators each Monday to check in. We have created a new email: [yarmouthemotionalfirstaid@gmail.com](mailto:yarmouthemotionalfirstaid@gmail.com) to encourage folks to contact us in a more discreet manner. I have yet to publicize it, but will put it on the YCCTF FaceBook and YCAN website soon.

I am now a member of the Chaplains Service Corp - commissioned by the CDC for the next 3 months to address the spiritual and emotional needs specifically at long term care facilities with cluster outbreaks - with an option to renew our services at the end of July. I've had several mandated trainings and will begin with several eight hours shifts per week.

Leigh, Katie Worthing (Yarmouth History Center) and I are crafting language and questions around capturing "oral histories" of Yarmouth during this pandemic. It will

start small and see if it catches on. We are hoping to entice folks to share by email, audio or video recordings. Stay tuned.

### **YCAN and Task Force Finances —Jean Rafford**

Donation numbers:

March 1 - May 5: Total = \$28,535

Food Pantry - \$18,325

Task Force - \$10, 210

Expenses paid from Task Force Account:

Video making - \$1000

Oximeters - \$284.77

Signage - \$556.40

Mask-making supplies - \$328.79

Taxi - \$30

Total = \$2199.76

### **Food Pantry Nancy Gorden**

The Food Pantry purchased a banner that is now hung in front of First Parish Church to announce to all that we are OPEN! We also received a donation of 10 cases of pasta sauce (120 jars to go with the 400 pounds of pasta!), and 400 pounds of potatoes that were provided to us through St. Bart's.

Our numbers ticked-up a bit last week, but are still not at the numbers which we had expected. Our donations have continued strong and we have been able to provide healthy food choices in our "Grab and Go" bags along with the produce we purchase from Laughing Stock Farm.

We need to tweak our egg donations and purchasing eggs at times as we found ourselves with none this morning when I checked. After some phone calls, we did get some. In addition to our egg supply, I believe that we will have to start purchasing meat in the foreseeable future as our freezer contents are low. This will need to be revisited by the steering committee before we begin requesting and/or purchasing meat. In the past our meat came from rescued food at Hannaford's and Shaw's. We no longer rescue food at this point.

### **Shop Gap Program—Karyn MacNeill**

Since changing the ShopGap timeframes, YCS received four calls for food shopping and delivery needs and coordinated 400 pounds of pasta delivered to the Food Pantry.

We will work with all Neighbors with food needs to call-in by Tuesdays and shopping and food deliveries happen on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Since modifying the shopping and delivery schedule, we have 22 volunteers signed up evenly for three days of shifts.

YCS had great success with the mass email sent to volunteers and notified all the previous Neighbors with food needs to alert them of the changes. By Tuesday, May 5, all previous Neighbors were taken care of and seemed understanding.

We are so fortunate that Yarmouth is so adaptable!

YCS continues to provide a liaison role with the Food Pantry by coordinating food deliveries and new Food Pantry patrons. YCS partnered with YCAN and the School Department to coordinate delivery to an additional Yarmouth family. Two additional Neighbors also submitted forms in order to become patrons of the Food Pantry.

### **School Support—Jennifer Charette**

#### **SCHOOL SUPPLY CARE PACKAGES**

In collaboration with elementary school principals and with financial support from the Yarmouth Education Foundation (YEF), Task Force volunteers have put together school supply care packages for K-4 Yarmouth children who may not have the basic school supplies to be successful in distance learning. Royal River Books is also generously donating a book for each child receiving a care package. Supplies are being distributed by Blair Currier, Yarmouth School Department Director of School Nutrition, and his very dedicated staff. Please contact task force volunteer Jennifer Charrette ([jennifercharrette@yahoo.com](mailto:jennifercharrette@yahoo.com) or 207-272-4597) or a school social worker if you know of a child in need of basic school supplies. As schools will remain closed for the rest of the year, the number of students needing school supplies is expected to increase. To date, 60 supply kits have been delivered.

#### **YARMOUTH STUDENT CORONAVIRUS ART SHOWCASE**

The goals of this task force sponsored project is to engage our young people in spreading positive messages related to the coronavirus pandemic and showcase student artwork. K-12 students are asked to submit artwork electronically by May 22, 2020, that includes one of the following: a message to lift spirits or inspire others, a call to action to help others, a thank you to those on the front lines, or a reminder of what we need to do to stay safe and make positive choices (in accordance with CDC guidelines). Artwork will be showcased virtually on school websites, the Task Force Facebook page, and an art blog. Although this is not a contest, names will be entered into a raffle for gift cards to Yarmouth businesses that are popular with students, including Handy's, Royal River

Books, and Island Treasure Toys. Instead of asking local businesses to donate gift cards during these difficult financial times, gift cards were donated by the Yarmouth Education Foundation and individual residents. The project was announced today with the help of a flier designed by local artist Catherine Bickford from Artascope. The flier was distributed with art supplies (paper, markers, and colored pencils) at the Juniper apartment complex, which is also the food distribution site for the Yarmouth School Department. Thank you to task force volunteer Lincoln Fuller for distributing the supplies. School supplies were purchased by the Yarmouth Education Foundation. Thank you also to YCAN for providing a new task force e-mail address to receive artwork. Please contact [Jennifercharrette@yahoo.com](mailto:Jennifercharrette@yahoo.com) or [ycctf@ycan.info](mailto:ycctf@ycan.info) for more information about this project.



Are you an inspiring young artist (K-12) living in Yarmouth? Do you have a message to help us get through this coronavirus pandemic and stay healthy? Or, maybe you have a message for our front-line health care workers, local businesses, or a loved one.

The Yarmouth Community Coronavirus Task Force is sponsoring a virtual art showcase for students. Student artwork will be displayed on the school websites and other social media. All participating students will be entered into a raffle for gift cards to local businesses, including Royal River Books, Handy's, Island Treasure Toys, and Otto.

### DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

Your artwork can be a drawing, painting, digital composition, photograph, sidewalk chalk drawing, mural, sculpture, or other still image.

Artwork should be planned and created by the individual student. Parents, guardians, and siblings can assist with capturing the image and submitting it.

Colors should be bold and show contrast and clarity. Designs should be simple and easy to understand in a short amount of time. Artwork can be any size. Please upload the best quality photo or pdf.

### YOUR ARTWORK SHOULD INCLUDE ONE OF THESE

- \* An encouraging message to lift spirits
- \* A call to action to help others
- \* A thank you to those on the front lines
- \* Ways to stay safe and make positive choices:

Wash your hands often  
 Stay 6 feet away from others  
 Wear a face mask in public  
 Cover coughs and sneezes  
 Clean and disinfect surfaces

### SUBMITTING YOUR DESIGN

Entries must be submitted electronically to the Coronavirus Task Force. Please email to [ycctf@ycan.info](mailto:ycctf@ycan.info) before May 22nd, 2020

Include the following information in your email  
 Student Name  
 Grade  
 Home Address  
 Parent Name and Email Address