

Yarmouth Community Corona Virus Task Force Report

May 13, 2020

Call Center. Margaret and Tom Downing

The Call Center continues to operate smoothly, shifts are covered, calls returned and actions logged in. Some minor changes/updates have been forwarded to volunteers. We have gone to bi-weekly meetings for updates. Some Call Center volunteers have assisted with distribution of the new flyers.

We continue to work with Sharon on how we may utilize our capacity beyond staffing the center. Volunteers are optimistic that they can make a positive difference if and when new opportunities develop.

Neighborhood Communicator—Carla Hunt

We are in our 3rd week of the #YarmouthGratitudeProject. Communicators and neighbors have been timid about documenting their acts of gratitude but some are making it to the Facebook page and people have enjoyed hearing about them and receiving them. This week gratitude goes to food providers and distributors.

We continue to distribute flyers. 2800 to date. More are scheduled throughout the week. Anecdotally, we are hearing about the impact of the flyers. Several stories about neighbors reaching out to their communicators after receiving a flyer: one person needing a ride to Maine Med and another needing face masks for their family others forwarding their email addresses. Another story of a communicator checking on an elderly couple led to a connection with that couple's neighbor who made a wellness check. The communicators are feeling like they are making a difference even though not all neighbors are yet connected in.

Communicators are moving into an advocacy role raising questions about testing, identifying cases by town, contact tracing and food insecurity. Betsy Kelly has taken the lead in drafting a letter about the medical side of things. Food insecurity is still in the conversation stages.

We are exploring the possibility of turning Little Free Libraries into places that offer other items like canned goods, toys, etc. Expect more on this idea.

Emotional Support — Leslie Hyde

Nothing new to report. We have created a new email: yarmouthemotionalfirstaid@gmail.com to encourage folks to contact us in a more discreet manner.

YCAN and Task Force Finances —Jean Rafford

Total amount donated March 1 - May 12:

Food Pantry	\$20,575
Task Force	<u>\$10,210</u>
Total	\$30,785

No expenses paid this week.

Total = \$2199.76

Food Pantry Nancy Gorden

Little has changed over this past week. Our numbers stay relatively stable. I have received a notice that for the May dispersment of GSFP boxes, we will receive 46 boxes and bags of produce sometime after May 17th. A flyer was created and Blair will have them printed off for us and added to the meals that are delivered to 125 families.

We continue to purchase produce from Laughing Stock Farm and are keeping a close eye on the meat that we have. I am trying to get a better handle on meat that is available from GS and hopefully we can take advantage of that

Shop Gap Program—Karyn MacNeill

I wish we had an exciting week at the ShopGap headquarters, but there is not too much to report. During the week of Wednesday 5/6 to Tuesday 5/12, YCS received three calls for food shopping/delivery needs and coordinated two new patrons for the Food Pantry.

As a reminder, our shopping and delivery will mainly be conducted from Wednesdays through Fridays, with one shopper available (not for public consumption) on weekends for our last minute and emergency needs.

We predict there are adequate shopper/deliverers available for this week and anticipate next week being filled as well. We are excited about the neighborhood partnerships formed recently that are happening without calling in to the Task Force or YCS.

Aging in Place—Leigh Kirchner

Yarmouth has a well-developed program to support older adults living in our community called Aging in Place. Supports include almost anything you can think of to help seniors remain in the community. Since this is such a challenging time we aren't doing much as far as face-to-face activities. But you can connect with our Resource Specialist (who is contracted for Yarmouth from the Southern Maine Agency on Aging) and she can help you get started. Her name is Zany Holman and she is available by phone 207-835-9866 or email zholman@smaaa.org

Please leave a message and I promise she will get back to you.

Leigh Kirchner Yarmouth Aging in Place 207-712-7244

Yarmouth Police Department—Dan Gallant

As expected, we have seen an increase in people out and about as the weather is getting better.

A lot of people are wearing masks, both on the street and in businesses. We continue to field calls about COVID-19 related issues, however so far this month it has slowed a little bit. Still doing our best to have a presence at the High School where some groups are still using the athletic facilities. Our continued goal is education.

A potential concern going forward is as things start to open bit by bit, some people may begin to become less focused on preventative measures (both from fatigue and distraction). And added to that is the general frustration levels of people of all ages.

Also, I want to thank Mary Calvin for her hard work in making cloth face coverings for the PD staff!