

Yarmouth Community Corona Virus Task Force Report May 27, 2020

Call Center. Margaret and Tom Downing

The Call Center continues to operate smoothly, shifts are covered, calls returned and actions logged in. Otherwise, nothing new to report.

Neighborhood Communicator—Carla Hunt

- The remaining flyers will be distributed this week to pockets of neighborhoods that haven't yet received them. A big thank you to all who supported this distribution!
- #YarmouthGratitudeProject highlights parents this week. These posts on Facebook have generated a lot of interest. Two weeks remain: public safety and Yarmouth Community.

YCAN and Task Force Finances —Jean Rafford

This Week's Totals:

Food Pantry	\$22,000
YCAN	10,810
TOTAL	\$32,810

\$1,100 was donated this week to the food pantry and \$150 to YCAN.

Expenses:

- \$2,385 for 100 \$25 Hannaford cards for the Food Pantry (taken from Food Pantry account)
- \$685.25 paid to Town of Yarmouth to cover printing of first set of flyers (YCAN paid for this as part of their \$1000 donation to the Task Force)

Yarmouth Sewing Warriors—Mary Calvin

The Sewing Warriors had a busy week:

- 130 adult masks and 55 children's masks were delivered to several facilities.
- Coastal Manor requested 4 masks each for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines. They are for both the staff and residents. Gail, who is my contact, was very excited to have these delivered. It doesn't take much to put a smile on some people's faces. I wish we could do that more often.
- 56 special black masks were delivered to the Yarmouth Police Dept.
- A very good brand-new sewing machine was donated to us. We will donate it, along with sewing supplies, to a New Maine contact of Carla's. It's exciting to help this woman out. She will be making masks for her community.

School Support—Jennifer Charette

STUDENT ART SHOWCASE

Coronavirus inspired student artwork is now showcased virtually on school art blogs and also:

http://gbi.photoshelter.com/gallery/Yarmouth-ME-K-12-Epidemic-Art/G0000L63_KT5F84k/

Our deadline for submissions has been extended through 5/31/20 and K-12 students are asked to submit artwork electronically to ycctf@ycan.info

Artwork can be anything from a sculpture, drawing, painting, photo, or digital creation. Images should be sent in pdf or jpg format. Artwork should include 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).

Names of all participating students will be entered into a raffle for gift cards to Royal River Books, Island Treasure Toys, Peachy's, and Otto. Please contact Jennifercharrette@yahoo.com or ycctf@ycan.info for more information about this project. Please spread the word about this project with neighborhood communicators, friends, and neighbors!

Epidemiology—Sharon McDonnell

Agenda for our Wednesday Task Force:

a. Can anyone from Chebeague join us? I am really interested to see if we can do some collaboration about testing, tracing, and other supports + maybe pie in the sky stuff. I think both the Island and Yarmouth proper might make a cool team. Even if it is just a short time you can join it might be great to strategize and see if people are interested. Folks from Chebeague please let us know if you would also be willing to tell our task force a bit about what you have learned in general with the good research being done.

b. Discuss the request for masks to help the communities hardest hit in Maine. Minority and marginalized people of Maine are taking on the greatest burden of this pandemic and are asking for help. Nearly 20% of all cases are among Persons of Color and New Mainers while they are a much smaller proportion of our population. One of the most concrete and simplest things we might be able to do is help them round up about 2000 masks to protect themselves at work and home. There are four ways we can help their immediate needs:

1. Providing sewing machines so they can work with nonprofit agencies in their own community to make masks.
2. Provide donations of Masks from the Sewing Warriors. Some of our Sew-ers are in Yarmouth and others have joined from various parts of Maine. They have donated to organizations in southern Maine generously and it seems that as long as Yarmouth needs are being met this would be good.
3. Financial donation for LLBean or others to make a bulk order at low cost. We might donate some funds toward this purpose.

4. Help with fundraising. This could be part of the Task Force or done separately.

Our hope is that more communities will "sister" with us (stealing a term from building) to join together to make sure everyone does well in this pandemic.

Help with social media and communication. I (Sharon) am working more with other agencies at state level and worry that we need to make sure we are communicating and keeping information coming.

Finally, businesses are really straining with the divisiveness of masks and pandemic views. I have been so saddened to hear what stresses they are under. There are no magic answers but I do believe helping them with picking and distributing posters, continued messaging and various types of moral support is something we can do at the least.