

CHORE NEWS

Serving the towns of Canaan,
Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent,
Norfolk, Salisbury/Lakeville
and Sharon

FALL 2021

Garden Party Event - June 26, 2021

Chore once again had to make the difficult, but safe, decision to cancel the Garden Party, our annual fundraiser. Never could we imagine that we would need to plan one COVID-friendly Garden Party let alone two! Since this would be the second year in a row that we couldn't gather together, we thought: Let's bring our party to our donors, and voila! The **Garden Party to Go** was born. The delicious picnic was put together by Theresa from Freund's Farm Market and Bakery and a bottle of wine from Sharon Package store was included to make for a perfect picnic on the go. The Sharon Playhouse and Mohawk Mountain Ski Area served as two locations where guests could pick up their picnics. Board members, along with Jane, the executive director, and Patti, the program director, shared a few minutes greeting our loyal supporters.

Our Garden Party to Go was designed so that each attendee could host their own individual Garden Party in whatever way they felt comfortable. Some supporters chose to enjoy their To Go boxes and wine privately at their homes in their own lovely gardens, while others gathered with small groups of friends at the lake or a park with their picnic.

The generosity of our donors never ceases to amaze us. Not only did many support our event, but Chore was also able to donate To Go boxes from our donors to our hardworking staff and clients in need. Chore was also able to donate and deliver over 50 boxes of food and over 100 bottles of iced tea and lemonade, donated by Harney and Sons, to *residents in the community*. Boxes were delivered by our workers and Patti and Jane on the day of the event. Our clients really appreciated this consideration and were touched by our donors' generosity. One client asked what they did to deserve a box, while another welled up with tears. Another client was looking forward to having a picnic with their worker. In addition, all Garden Party supporters had been entered into a raffle for a catered



One of many picturesque views from our Garden Party to Go.

dinner for eight people. The winner could not have been more excited to have been chosen, and is looking forward to being able to once again entertain family and friends. Words cannot begin to express the gratitude that was felt by all.

Many thanks to our 129 individual and business sponsors who helped underwrite this event. We are fortunate to have such compassionate workers who

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Being a Chore Service Worker is not just important work within the community that we love, it's a job that leaves you with a sense of satisfaction that you will always remember.

I started as a Chore Service Worker when my youngest child went to kindergarten. In the summer, I was a gardener (and Mom), but now I had time in the winters to look for work. A friend told me about Chore Service so I filled out an application. The work was perfect for me because I could schedule it during my children's school hours and easily change my schedule if needed. My clients usually lived 5 or 10 minutes from my house so the commute was great. The best part was the time at the beginning or the end of the work when I would sit down and have conversations with my clients. To this day, those relationships remain as fond memories for me.

I was recently talking to a young man who has worked for Chore Service for the past three summers doing outdoor work for clients. The flexibility of being a Chore Worker is just one attractive aspect of the position. Being able to create and maintain his own work schedule allowed for time to pursue his many interests and activities outside of working with clients. He also said the same thing I always used to say when I worked for Chore Service. He enjoyed getting to know the clients and creating friendships with them. Every spring, clients eagerly anticipate the return of this worker and call the Chore Service office to add their names to the list of clients needing outdoor work. Clients have been so thankful to have a dedicated and caring worker and it means a lot to him that they really appreciate his work.

Chore Service Workers would not be able to do the important work that they do in this community without the generous support of our donors. We live in a wonderful and giving community and we are grateful to be able to continue our mission through the donations you make.

My thanks go to all of you along with my gratitude for being a part of Chore Service.

Sincerely yours,
Dolores Perotti

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As I was preparing to put together my first annual newsletter as the new executive director, I decided to look back at the decades of newsletters that were written before me. I now realize just how resilient Chore Service has been over the past 29 years and this past year has been no different.

Since January, I have been entrusted with the position of executive director after being the coordinator and program director for a total of six years. While I haven't changed desks, I have changed the many hats that I wear in my new role. My previous experience of working directly with clients and staff proves invaluable each and every day as I am reminded of how important our mission is to the community. Not only are we providing essential services to our clients, but we are also employing local and caring people within our community to provide these needed services.

Demand for the services we provide is greater than ever. Like many employers across the country, we are also experiencing a shortage of staff despite extensive measures to hire. At the beginning of the pandemic, local organizations collaborated on safety measures and now these discussions include hiring strategies. Our staff remain committed to serving our clients, but the need for services still overburdens our hardworking staff.

Last November, we hired our new Program Director, Patti Palermo. I was fortunate to have a few months transitioning with Patti before assuming my new role. Patti and I are in the office most days and continue to work closely together. With just two full-time office staff, we occasionally have to borrow or share the same hat!

Safety is still a primary focus for both staff and clients. Staff continue to practice COVID safety precautions when seeing clients. In addition to wearing masks, staff are asked to complete screening tools for both themselves and clients to ensure safety for all. While this involves extra steps, both staff and clients have been supportive and understanding of the importance of such precautions.

Last but not least, my favorite new hat that I have the privilege of wearing is getting to know our wonderful donors. I have had the pleasure of meeting several of you already and my hope is that I will have the opportunity to meet everyone in person next year at our Garden Party where we can all be together strolling through one of our beautiful gardens in the Northwest Corner.

As I look at the decades of scattered newsletters on my desk, I notice a common theme from the very first newsletter to the last. Our donors, Board of Directors and staff remain committed to our mission – even during these challenging times. Thank you for your continued support!

Kind regards,
Jane MacLaren

"This service is a blessing. I couldn't be in my home if I didn't have Chore Service. Be lost without it."

STAFF NEWS

Meet Patti Palermo

Chore is pleased to announce that Patti Palermo has joined the Chore Service team as the new program director. Patti grew up in Southern Connecticut but moved to Litchfield County almost 30 years ago where she raised her family in the town of Litchfield with her husband, Jim. She has completed a Master of Science degree in counseling and human services as well as a graduate certificate in professional counseling. Patti has earned the designation of professional counseling associate (PCA).

Previous to coming to Chore, Patti worked as a behavioral health counselor, as a provider of home-based services to families through the Early Head Start program and as a community services manager for a Head Start program. Other rewarding employment opportunities include working with the elderly and adults with disabilities in a variety of settings. Patti brings experience, enthusiasm and compassion to her new role at Chore.



The Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation

Chore would like to thank The Anne and Rollin Bates Foundation for a generous grant to cover the cost of our first year's subscription for our new online database. Because of this grant, Chore is now able to generate customized reports, track grants and evaluate fundraising effectiveness. Chore is very grateful for the Foundation's support.

Garden Party to Go 2021



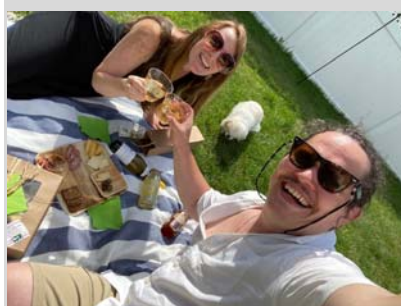
"I am grateful for the help you give especially in this difficult time."

Garden Party from page 1..

take care of our wonderful clients; and we're fortunate to have such generous donors whose support goes a long way to assist those who cannot safely remain in their home without the help of Chore. Because of your continued support, our mission continues.

We do hope that we can all be together again at our Garden Party in 2022. Thank you again for all that you do for Chore.

"Chore is a wonderful service and helps older people to stay in their homes."





CHORE SERVICE

P. O. Box 522
Lakeville, CT 06039
chore@choreservice.org

www.choreservice.org

In Honor of

Ella Clark

Patrice & Kevin McGrath

Carol Flaton & Sandra Buergi

Elizabeth Murphy

Cathy Jennings

Patricia Conlin

Megan Mollica

Doris Chevron & Juergen Kalwa

Pat Wright

Anonymous
Claire Leifert
Dolores & Francis Perotti

In Memory of

Donna Bedard

Pat & Rick Wright

Ellen Burcroff

Jane & Gil MacLaren

Sarah Clawson

Kane Clawson

Diane Hewat

Lea Davies & Larry Power

Anita Jennings

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Ann Tierney

Bill Tierney

Richard Walsh

Patricia Walsh

CHORE DONORS -

July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

And the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging

We're grateful to the following people and organizations for their generous support of Chore Service. We'd also like to thank the towns that support us as well as those donors who wish to remain anonymous. Please accept our apologies and contact us if we have omitted or misspelled your name.

\$5,000 and Up

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Camilla Cloney
Jocelyn Cohen
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Hilary Cooper & Christopher Crowley

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Anne Day & Spencer Reiss
Mary De Pasquale
Carolyn Demaray
Julia Devlin
Page Dickey & Francis Schell
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Maureen & Patrick Dore
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Sarah Zarbock & John Hoffman
Michael Zients & Derek Larson

Follow Chore Service on Social Media



Visit www.choreservice.org for more information on our services, read client testimonials, meet our staff and board members, see event photos, download an employment application, send us an email and even make an on-line donation! Our July Garden Party event is there to view some wonderful garden pictures.

Chore Service also has a Facebook page you can follow to be kept up-to-date on Chore news and events, local community news and events, employment opportunities, as well as information pertaining to the elderly and disabled.

"My worker has always been willing to help wherever needed and works very hard. She has been a treasure."

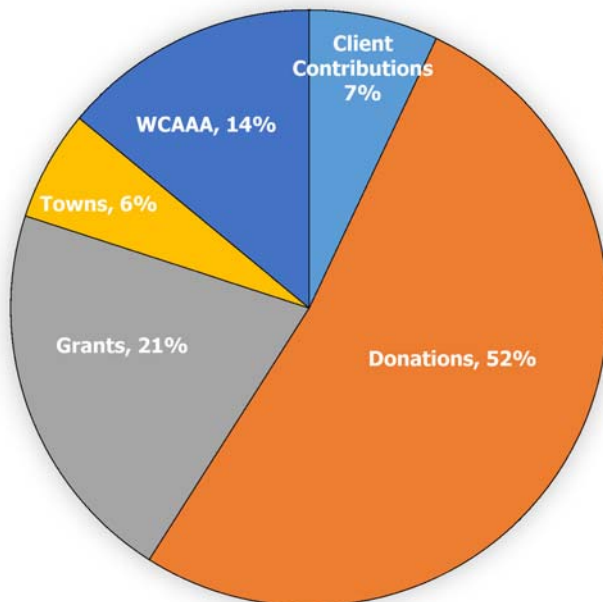
"This is a wonderful service and it has improved my functioning greatly. Thank you so much for all your efforts."

For the past 29 years, we have kept many of our elderly and disabled neighbors safely and independently at home in our community while providing employment to local residents. Numbers for the year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 are reflected below.

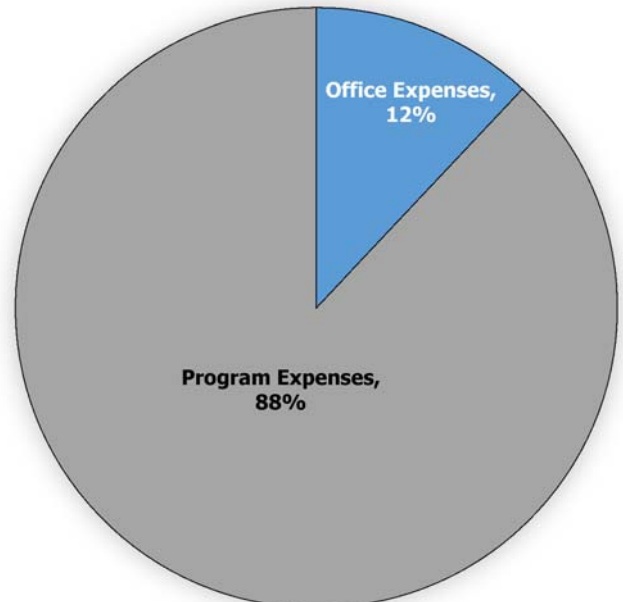
CHORE SERVICE - July 2020- June 2021

Town	Population	Workers From	Earnings by Those Workers		Number of Clients From	Hours of Service For Those Clients
Canaan	3,211	5	\$17,200		34	1,762
Cornwall	1,567	3	\$3,041		9	189
Falls Village	1080	1	\$1,244		4	13
Kent	3,019	2	\$5,669		13	400
Norfolk	1,588	2	\$8,632		12	230
NY & MA State	N/A	1	\$2,574		N/A	N/A
Other CT Towns	N/A	2	\$2,286		N/A	N/A
Salisbury	4,194	8	\$27,341		39	1,349
Sharon	2,680	3	\$5,036		23	539
Total:	17,339	27	\$73,023		134	4,481

INCOME - July '20- June '21



EXPENSES - July '20- June '21



"Thank you for providing this vital service to our community."

"Keep up the great work! Our area needs helpers so we can remain in our own homes!"



Using Chore Service

If you live in
Canaan, Cornwall,
Falls Village, Kent,
Norfolk,
Salisbury/Lakeville,
or Sharon,

we can help with chores

at home. Older and disabled people are asked for a "suggested contribution" since grants partially subsidize their services. However, anyone can use Chore Service. Our workers are local, caring and reliable.

If you'd like to use the program,
work or volunteer, please call

(860) 435-9177

or your local Social Service Agent.

Also you can visit us at:

www.choreservice.org

Numbers You May Need

Social Services

Canaan **(860) 824-3133 ext. 110**

Cornwall **(860) 672-2603**

Falls Village **(860) 824-9855**

Kent **(860) 927-1586**

Norfolk **(860) 542-5829**

Salisbury/Lakeville
(860) 435-5191

Sharon **(860) 364-1003**

Meal Sites

824-9855

927-2055

542-5434

435-5186

Senior Centers

824-9855

927-2055

435-5186

Meals on Wheels

(860) 482-4151

Services for the Blind

(800) 944-9422

Social Security Office Torrington

(860) 496-6900

(877) 405-0486

Center for Medicare Advocacy

(800) 262-4414

Medicare

(800) 633-4227

Visiting Nurse / Hospice / Home Care Associations

New Milford Visiting Nurse Association

(860) 354-2216

Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County

(860) 379-8561

(formerly Foothills VNA, VNA Northwest and Salisbury VNA)

CLIENT FUND NEEDS SUPPORT

In April of 2010, Chore started a special Client Fund with a donation of \$3,000 for the purpose of paying for "special" expenses that clients might have. This fund is to pay for things such as snow removal, mowing of lawns, minor home repairs and household items that are not covered by any other resources.

With the extremely wet summer this year, mowing of lawns was quite expensive. We never know what winter will bring, but the Farmer's Almanac predicts a cold, stormy winter. Snow and ice are certain, so there will be a need to help some clients who cannot afford to keep their driveways and walkways safe.

Because of the demand for these essential services, we need to continually raise additional dollars for the Client Fund. To make a designated contribution to the Client Fund, you can write "Chore Service Client Fund" in the memo of your check.

Thank you!

Rhoades-Robinson Grant

Chore would like to thank the Rhoades-Robinson Trust Fund for its \$10,000 grant. Chore is very grateful for this amazingly generous and continuous support. The mission of the Trust is to help non-profits assist residents of the Town of Sharon. This past fiscal year, three residents who work for Chore part-time provided 23 Sharon seniors with 539 hours of service.

How does Chore Service Work?

Chore Service helps elderly and disabled residents of Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury/Lakeville and Sharon with household chores, home maintenance, errands and, occasionally, transportation. The purpose of the program is to help people stay at home safely and independently. Chore Service also provides jobs for local workers. Client contributions are supplemented by a federal grant as well as donations from towns, churches, charitable funds and individuals so that the program can remain affordable for our target population of fixed low-income families. We do not send bills and only ask the financial information required by our grant funding. Clients are provided with a suggested contribution scale and are asked to contribute what they can (if they can) back toward the service. Workers are paid the same rate regardless of the client's contribution.

Know someone who would be interested in becoming a Chore Service Worker? Please call Patti at (860) 435-9177.



Tax-free gifts can be made by IRA holders who are 70-1/2 years or older to Chore from their IRA Required Minimum Distribution. These gifts must be made directly from the IRA account before 12/31/21 and can be in any amount up to the total of the Required Minimum Distribution. Please check with your advisor if you wish to take advantage of this gifting option.

Garden Party Plans for 2022 - Our 30th Year!

Chore Service Annual Garden Party in 2022 will be in the lovely gardens of Juliet and John Hubbard in Cornwall. These gardens have beautiful walking paths throughout with resting places among the various plantings. Included in these gardens is a formal vegetable garden close to the house where they grow peas, asparagus, beans, tomatoes and peppers. They stake and tie their produce with branches and twigs in charmingly creative ways. There also are gardens that include old-fashioned peonies for cut flowers, raspberries, day lilies, roses, irises as well as crabapples, lilacs and hydrangeas.

You won't want to miss this wonderful garden next summer, so watch for your save the date card this winter!



La Bonne's Rebate Program
Chore Service is a participant in the
"Cash for Charities Rebate Program"
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