

CHORE NEWS

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

FALL 2020

Chore Service During a Pandemic

In normal times, this newsletter would have beautiful garden pictures on the front page, with smiling people visiting neighbors and friends in the gardens of one of our donors. But these are not normal times. Along with everyone else in this country and the world, our clients and staff are dealing with Covid-19, the pandemic of our times. But there are still smiling faces, and the front page of this year's newsletter is about those faces.

In mid-March, it became clear that Covid-19 was something that had to be taken seriously, and that everyone was at risk, especially the elderly and those with underlying conditions—this included most of our clients. In an effort to assure the health and safety of our clients and workers, all of our services, except grocery shopping, stopped while we took stock of what was needed for everyone's safety. Within two weeks, it became clear that the suspension in our services was going to last longer. Chore Service was lucky to receive a PPP forgivable loan, which allowed all workers to be paid and not lose their income during this time.

So, what happened to our clients? We provide cleaning services for our clients. We get groceries for some seniors. We do yard work, and we provide support and companionship...so many little things that no one really thinks about. Some of these services needed to continue for safety's sake and some were needed to help with possible loneliness and depression.

Before we take a look at some of the things that have happened with our clients during the pandemic, let me explain how our services work for those of you who don't know. A client who needs services is matched with a worker who can help them. The two then communicate with each other to set up their schedule, and most communication the client has with Chore is through their worker.



Nora, with Chore Service since 2012, takes flowers and vegetables to one of her clients who is housebound.

When services were interrupted in March, each worker reached out to their clients. They then reported back to the office staff (Jane and Pat), described what was needed, and if the client was all right on their own. Workers kept in contact with their clients at least every couple of weeks to let them know when we might be starting in-home services again. Along with that communication, some workers got

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I have always known the Chore Service is not just about chores.

The COVID19 virus came unforeseen by most of us. The vulnerability of the elderly and disabled in our community was raised to a point that I am still shocked by.

The other day I spoke with a friend who uses the Chore Service to help her around her house and garden. She told me that during March, April, and May her chore worker continued to do her shopping. They would meet on either side of her glass door when she brought the groceries and visit. After the Chore Service was allowed to resume work, her worker had to go through the new procedures every time she came over. First a worker has to do a temperature check on themselves and complete a form then the worker has to call the client and do a screening form on the client. When a worker is in a home, they wear a mask and gloves and follow social distancing recommendations.

My friend told me that she was struck, as anyone who thinks about it would be, that her worker cares enough about her to take these very real risks.

The Chore Service is not just about chores.

The generosity of the donors in our community in 2020 allowed the workers to make a paycheck. Then, the workers showed up and made a difference in the lives of the clients at a time that is unlike any in the 28 years of the Chore Service existence.

Thank you is too simple a phrase to convey the gratitude I feel to the donors, the workers, Pat and Jane.

Sincerely yours,
Dolores Perotti

" She is kind, caring, respectful, honest and always on time. How wonderful to have such a special person available to help me. I had breast cancer surgery and a hip replacement this year. Thank God for her."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

What an interesting year 2020 has been! We have included articles in this newsletter to help you know what has been happening with our clients and workers during this challenging pandemic. My goal in this column is to let you know what is happening within our office. As you most likely know, there are only two of us (Jane and me) who run the office with the help of a part-time bookkeeper. Since mid-March, we have been working from home, with alternating days in the office. As with other organizations, our office is not open to outside people without appointments, but we have someone there most days, and we either answer the phone or gather messages from the machine throughout the workday.

Earlier this year, I made the decision to retire in January 2021. The Board of Directors and I began the process of a transition last fall, with the plan that Jane, our Program Director, would be prepared to move into my position when I left. I am very happy to say that at our last Board meeting the decision was made to offer Jane the position of Executive Director when I retire in January! This has led to our posting of the Program Director position recently.

It has been a terrific honor to lead Chore Service the past 5 years, and I am so very happy that Jane's capable hands will be taking the reins from me in a couple of months. The dedication of the Chore Workers and Board of Directors has been my inspiration every day as I worked to provide what was needed so that services could always be available to those seniors who needed them. Our donors to Chore are so very generous... even in a pandemic! I have enjoyed getting to know many of you at our annual Garden Party, and your support of our clients and community have brought tears to my eyes more than once.

So, even though this is my last Executive Director's Report, I write this knowing that our Chore Workers, Jane, and all of you will be here to continue to help those seniors in our communities that need help to remain safely in their homes. Thank you for having made my time here so memorable!

Pat

creative with ways of staying connected with their clients.

One worker went once or twice a week to fill a bird feeder outside a client's apartment. The client loved to watch her birds, and, because of being isolated, this was very important to her. This worker would fill the feeder, then visit through the window for a few minutes. It became a welcome ritual for both the worker and client.

Another worker and client had a "tea date" every Monday at 11:00. One would call the other and they would sit, each with a cup of tea, and they would chat about the week, and what was going on in one another's lives...one in the community, the other "stuck" in their home to be safe. This creative solution turned into a treasured time for both involved.

One worker, who had always taken the client to the food pantry each week, began to go on her own to gather food for her client twice a week. Food was dropped off on the doorstep with no personal contact to assure safety for all, but conversations about these trips took place over the phone. This worker provided shopping for other clients as well.

By June, the Governor had provided guidance for resuming services, and, with training and extra supplies, in-home services could resume in a slightly different, much safer way. Some clients, and some workers, decided not to resume services for safety reasons, so once again, we had to be creative. Some of our clients receive calls from their workers just to chat. One worker takes vegetables from her garden to leave on her client's doorstep weekly. Even the Western Area on Aging, our grant funder, realized the importance of these visits for those who are homebound for safety reasons; they call it Personal Reassurance. The value of this contact for those who are housebound cannot be measured.

Support Chore Service when you shop AmazonSmile

Please consider supporting Chore when shopping on AmazonSmile. Go to smile.amazon.com and choose Chore Service and we will receive a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products. AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping as Amazon!



Rich, with Chore Service since 2018, helps clients with yard work and small projects.

So, Chore became creative with ways to continue to provide services during a pandemic. Hopefully, next year when this newsletter is being written, there will be pictures of our garden party with guests mingling and roaming around the property. But this year, we are so very thankful for all of our workers who take care of our clients in so many interesting and loving ways!

Follow Chore Service on Social Media

Visit our
Website!

We now have a full-service website! Please 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 booklet 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.





CHORE SERVICE

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

www.choreservice.org

In Honor of Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association
Carolyn Bluhm

In Honor of Lea Davies Many Years of Leadership
Diana and Edward Greene

In Memory of William Albright
Bill Albright

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Crosby Wells
Hedwig Wells

Margaret Wells
Lynton Wells

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July 1, 2019 - September 1, 2020

And the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging

We're grateful to the following people and organizations for their generous support of The 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.

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 Michael Zients & Derek Larson

* deceased



" They always go out of their way to try to find some help for us. This has been a hard time in our later years but Chore has stepped in every time."

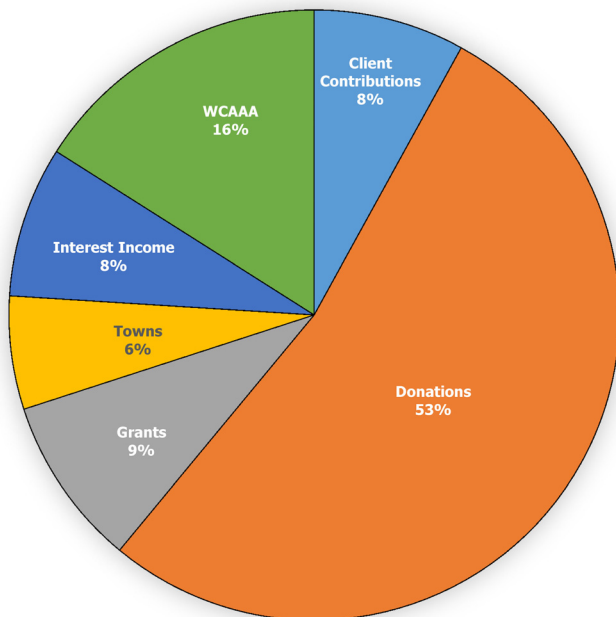
"I am not sure I could do without this steady, competent person every week."

Over the past 18 years we have served 1,644 clients and have provided 275,300 hours of chore service. Chore has employed an average of 80 employees annually. Numbers for the year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 are reflected below.

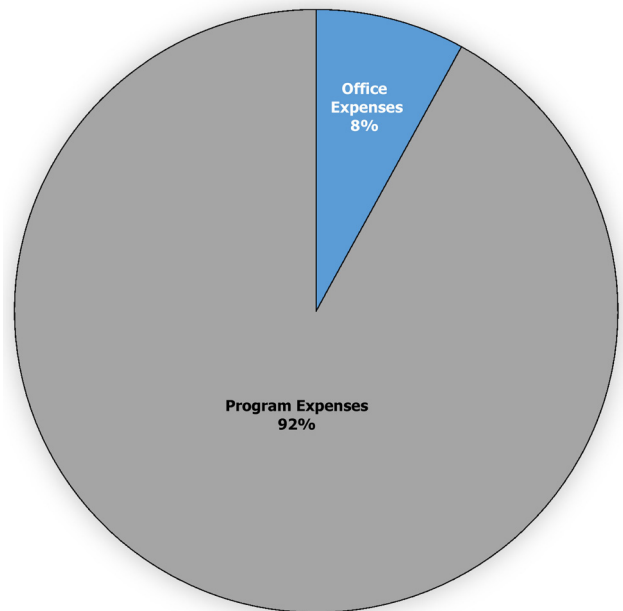
CHORE SERVICE - July 2019 - June 2020

Town	Population	Workers From	Earnings by Those Workers		Number of Clients From	Hours of Service For Those Clients
Canaan	3,186	5	\$ 21,468		35	1,814
Cornwall	1,420	3	\$ 6,117		17	585
Falls Village	490	1	\$ 3,548		5	46
Kent	2,819	2	\$ 1,576		22	500
Norfolk	1,632	3	\$ 14,403		11	240
NY & MA State	N/A	2	\$ 3,599		N/A	N/A
Other CT Towns	N/A	3	\$ 15,476		N/A	N/A
Salisbury	3,618	10	\$ 37,359		47	1,728
Sharon	2,714	4	\$ 20,698		19	795
Total	15,879	33	\$ 124,244		156	5,708

INCOME - July '19- June '20



EXPENSES - July '19- June '20



"I am one among many to know how lucky we are to have such a caring group - many, many thanks!"



Using the 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 handicapped people are
asked for a "suggested contribution" since grants
partially subsidize their services.

However, anyone can use the 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

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, trash pick-up, minor home repairs and medical equipment that is not covered by any other resources.

Even though this past summer was hot and dry, with the rainy spring mowing of lawns was quite expensive. We never know what winter will bring, but the Farmer's Almanac predicts a cold, wet 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.



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 12/31/19 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.

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) 435-5187/5191

Sharon **(860) 364-1003**

Meal Sites

824-9855

927-2055

542-5434

435-5197

435-5197

Senior Centers

824-9855

927-2055

435-5197

Friendly Visitors/Garden Angels

(860) 435-9177

Meals on Wheels (Torrington)

(860) 482-4151

Services for the Blind

(800) 842-4510

Social Security Office Torrington

(877) 405-0486

Center for Medicare Advocacy

(800) 262-4414

Medicare

(800) 633-4227

Visiting Nurse / Hospice / Home Care Associations

Foothills Visiting Nurse and Home Care, Winsted

(860) 379-8561

New Milford Visiting Nurse Association

(860) 354-2216

Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association

(860) 435-0816

also for Home Health & Hospice Care

SVNA Home Assistance (private duty care)

(860) 435-0816

Visiting Nurse and Home Care Northwest

(860) 567-6000

or (800) 752-0215

Rhoades-Robinson Grant

Chore would like to thank the Rhoades-Robinson Trust Fund for its \$15,000 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. Five Sharon residents who work for Chore part-time provide 19 Sharon seniors with almost 800 hours of service annually.

How does the Chore Service Work?

The Chore Service helps elderly and handicapped 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. The 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. We only require the client's name, address, phone number and date of birth. 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.

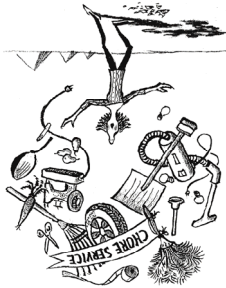
Garden Party Plans for 2021

The Chore Service Annual Garden Party in 2021 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
The Chore Service is a participant in the
"Cash for Charities Rebate Program"
If you shop there, do send your register receipts to us. LaBonne's will donate 1% of the non-taxable amount to the Chore Service. *Thank you!*



JUGGLER, DUSTER & TOILET LADYART: MARC SIMONT
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