



Neighbor to Neighbor Fund

P.O. Box 316

New Hartford, CT 06057

860-379-3389

A Municipal Tax Exempt Fund Providing Assistance to our Neighbors in Need

Neighbor to Neighbor is a community supported fund that was established in response to requests for financial assistance. In 2007, representatives from several community organizations, local clergy and the town's social services agent met to discuss the issue of "need" in New Hartford. At that meeting, it was agreed that New Hartford had its share of residents who could occasionally benefit from a "helping hand."

Discussion at this initial meeting led to the consensus that there needed to be one place where those requesting assistance could be directed to in order to apply for aid. The premise was that this would cut down on the "surfing" that sometimes occurs when people are seeking financial help. It was decided that applications and requests for assistance would be accepted at New Hartford Town Hall by the Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman as this position is also responsible for coordination of Social Services for residents.

The group formed a committee consisting of representatives from the various groups that were represented at the meeting. They charged this committee with reviewing applications, determining need and granting or denying requests. Ground rules were established that set eligibility requirements (consistent with the State of Connecticut income guidelines used for energy assistance) and a \$500.00 once per year limit of funding assistance (although the group can make exceptions to this limit on a case-by-case basis when the need is warranted). Approval of assistance must also be granted by the majority of the committee members. If the majority of the committee does not support the request, the request is denied.

Neighbor to Neighbor assistance is considered to be a "hand up" and not a "hand out" as the committee strives to make financial award decisions based on the premise that the assistance provided will afford an opportunity to move forward and clears an obligation that is impeding progress. Assistance is not granted in a case where it just "holds off the inevitable" it needs to help overcome a temporary set back.

Neighbor to Neighbor issues payment directly to a vendor (i.e. electric company, oil company, pharmacy, doctor's office, etc.), not to the individual seeking the assistance. This insures that the funds are used in the manner for which they were approved.

Confidentiality is maintained throughout the process. The identity of the applicant is only known by one person who has the responsibility for intake of the application. Personal information is redacted and only the circumstances of the request are relayed to the Committee for their consideration.

Neighbor to Neighbor is funded solely by the generosity of local organizations, businesses and monetary donations made by members of the community. Private donations are the life blood of this valuable fund. Without the support of residents, this fund would cease to exist.

Those in need of a "helping hand" are encouraged to contact the Town of New Hartford Administrative Assistant to the First Selectman (the position is currently held by Christine Hayward). You can call 860-379-3389 and ask to speak with her or send an email to chayward@newhartfordct.gov

Please note that applicants for funding will need to provide proof of income. Documentation such as bank statements and proof of wages will be required to be available for review at the initial intake appointment.

Donations to the fund are accepted year round! They can be dropped off at Northwest Community Bank (New Hartford office), brought directly to New Hartford Town Hall or mailed to:

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530 Main Street
P.O. Box 316
New Hartford, CT 06057

Any questions regarding this assistance fund can be directed to current committee members: Penny Miller, Sanita Gingras, Reverend Sandra Cossman, Richard St. John, Patrick MacDonald, Lourena Helt, First Selectman Dan Jerram, Administrative Assistant Christine Hayward.