

2021 Holiday Wish List

AGING SERVICES OF NORTH CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

Money Management – Clients come to this program who are at risk of eviction, foreclosure, utility shut off and/or food insecurity.

Volunteer: *Cards for Caring Initiative* – This opportunity is open to everyone. Write a warm holiday card for the aging community of North Central Massachusetts who may be living in isolation during the holiday season. Deadline to send/drop off cards is Friday, December 11, 2021. Send or drop off cards to the attention of David Ginisi, Aging Services of North Central Massachusetts, 680 Mechanic St., Leominster, MA 01453 or contact him at dginisi@asncm.org or 978-537-7411 for questions.

COMMUNITY HEALTH CONNECTIONS

Action Health Services provides substance abuse counseling and personal addiction identification, while working through the stages of addiction and rehabilitation in order to prevent the outcome of relapse. Their patients are primarily low income individuals who are struggling to meet their basic needs (housing, medical care, food, etc.)

Donations: donate diapers (sizes 2-6), hand and feet warmers, warm socks for men and women of all sizes (new only), underwear for men and women of all sizes (new only), and winter boots for men and women of all sizes (preferably new).

GARDNER CAC

Emergency Assistance serves low-income clients, addressing issues of poverty such as hunger/malnutrition, along with

immediate crisis such as rental eviction, foreclosure and utility terminations. Their Fellowship Table is an outlet for isolated individuals to share a common meal, socializing with others in a hospitable location.

Donations: stocking stuffers for children, hand warmers, winter coats, and to-go containers.

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRY

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry undertakes a comprehensive outreach effort to those in need. Through their outreach they provide groceries to families who reside within their service area.

Donations: hams for their Holiday Dinner Distribution on Monday, Dec. 20. Hams need to be dropped off by Thursday, Dec. 16.

NEWVUE COMMUNITIES

Financial Fitness provides financial education through several channels. Their services include one-on-one financial coaching, foreclosure and eviction prevention counseling, and post-purchase counseling.

Donations: gift cards from Market Basket or other grocery stores in the amounts of \$20–\$25 for all 46 (and counting) households that were assisted with the Eviction Prevention Funding from the United Way through NewVue's Housing Stability Counseling program.

NORTH STAR FAMILY SERVICES (FORMALLY MONTACHUSETT INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK)

Case Management and Financial Coaching provides weekly

case management sessions and group training, with a focus on financial coaching. Family Homeless Shelter is a safety net program that provides emergency housing, meals, clothing, intensive case management and educational opportunities in life skills.

Donations: gift cards for adults to Target, Walmart, Uber and Amazon.

OUR FATHER'S HOUSE

Basic Needs Assistance for the Homeless addresses the basic needs of their clients through their food pantry and their affordable housing. They provide short-term rental subsidies to the homeless and assist in finding stable affordable housing for their clients.

Donations: any size children's winter jackets, mittens, hats and blankets or fleece blankets for homeless shelter beds for adults and children.

PATHWAYS FOR CHANGE, INC.

Sexual Assault Youth Education (SAYE) Program provides age and culturally appropriate education/prevention services designed to change social norms within communities to reduce the perpetration of sexual assault across the life span.

Donations: gift cards for YOUTH (Dunkin, McDonalds, Subway's, Wendy's, Little Caesar's, Game Stop, Burger King; any amount from \$5-\$25); gift cards for ADULTS (Walmart, CVS, Target, Grocery stores, Amazon, Gas cards, etc. any amount from \$25 and up), Emergency clothing for survivors in the ER (sweat pants & sweat shirts, gender neutral, all sizes M-4X, socks, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.) Art Supplies for Group Support Counseling: acrylic paints, pipe cleaners, polymer clay, fabric markers, fabric paints, fidget toys (spinners, poppers, etc.) adult coloring books, coloring pencils/markers, beads, twine, glue, etc. Miscellaneous: packaged snacks (crackers, trail mix, cookies, etc., - individually wrapped), boxes of tissues (for counseling sessions), lip balm, hand sanitizer.

SPANISH AMERICAN CENTER, INC.

Food Pantry provides fresh and canned foods to predominantly the Latino community in North Central Massachusetts, but anyone can access their food pantry.

Volunteer: Christmas Holiday Family / Youth Toy Distribution. Providing toys for children in need. (This is a family event.) Three volunteers are needed to sort and pack family bags during normal work hours from 8:30am-4:30pm. Training will be provided. To register, please contact Neddy Latimer at 978-534-3145 or neddy_latimer@spanishamericancenter.org.

Donations: holiday gifts, clothes, toys, gift cards, gift certificates and toiletries (especially for infants and elders).

THE SALVATION ARMY | ATHOL

Comprehensive Emergency Assistance Program strives to meet the basic needs of all who come seeking help. Takes immediate care of the basic human needs of food, shelter, clothing, and safety. Provides people with support to take the first steps in the development of a more positive and permanent life change.

Donations: food supplies (150+ food boxes are given out at Christmas time. Finding it difficult to get everything we need due to the supply chain issues.) Items for our Christmas food boxes are: sugar cookie mix, chocolate chip cookie mix, hot cocoa, pineapple slices, green beans, and corn; personal hygiene products; diapers, baby formula, baby items and gift cards for food/groceries, clothing, etc.

THE SALVATION ARMY | FITCHBURG

Bridging the Gap addresses multiple determinants of emerging anti-social behavior in first time juvenile offenders and other at/high risk youth. Includes a 12-week comprehensive life-skills program offered in the Fitchburg and Gardner areas. Comprehensive Emergency Assistance provides emergency assistance for those in need. Helps with food assistance, rental/mortgage, utility assistance, emergency disaster services, camp experiences, seasonal assistance, referrals, clothing, and furniture.

Volunteer: Kettle-bell ringers at several locations, mornings, afternoons and evenings from Nov. 15-Dec. 24. To register, please contact Lynnette Valentine Warren at 978-342-3300 or Lynnette.Valentine@USE.SalvationArmy.org.

YMCA OF CENTRAL MA | MONTACHUSETT COMMUNITY BRANCH

The preschool program offers child care to families of all incomes. They provide vouchers and scholarships to income-eligible families and work with other Child Care Resources for additional vouchers as needed. Preschool Readiness Program works in partnership with parents. The staff at the "Y" encourages parents to visit the program and welcomes parent participation and input. "Y" School-Age Child Care, Teen and Camp Program provides opportunities for youth to explore ideas and practice concepts. Students participate in STEM and literacy enrichments with broad-based conceptual/cognitive learning.

Donations: nonperishable food for holiday meals, gift cards to grocery stores for perishable foods; children's toys, clothes, shoes, school supplies, winter coats, boots, hats and gloves for children from ages 2 ½ to 18 years.

YWCA OF CENTRAL MA

Girls CHOICE program is a multi-year, gender-specific, with mentoring and wrap-around support services to help at-risk middle school girls from low to moderate income families overcome the obstacles they face to achieve academic success. Domestic Violence Services provide survivors of domestic violence with support, advocacy and referral to other providers for additional services.

Donations: gift cards to Walmart and Market Basket; arts & crafts supplies; board games for youth and families.

**For more information, contact Anne McCarthy,
Community Engagement Manager
Anne@uwncm.org | 978-345-1577, ext. 313**