

COMMUNITY SERVICES COORDINATOR



Aileen Buford
Community Services Coordinator

The Community Services Coordinator (CSC) position was established in 2005. Primarily funded by a grant from the Community Chest, the purpose of the less-than 20 hour a week position is to assist Concord and Carlisle residents, 60 years and under, in accessing information on a broad range of local, privately funded and State services including financial and fuel assistance programs.

The Community Services Coordinator continued to aid individuals and families in accessing needed services on a variety of fronts. Referrals for Concord and Carlisle residents over the course of the year went from 554 the previous year to approximately 600 in 2011.

Referrals were made to food assistance programs, home mortgage counseling programs, job assistance agencies, counseling services, tax assistance programs, Concord Cares, energy efficiency programs, fuel assistance, scholarship information, lower-income legal services, disability advocacy and support services and after-school and camp programs.

Emergency referrals related to housing, food assistance and utility assistance continued in 2011 and the CSC provided short-term case management to those families and individuals in crisis, working closely with such agencies as Hugh Cargill Trust, Society for St. Vincent de Paul and the Clergy Laity Group to provide families in need with emergency financial assistance.

The Community Services Coordinator also continued to collaborate with community agencies that provide assistance to Concord and Carlisle families. The CSC

assisted with the Gaining Ground Farm's Food for Families program which served over 45 families free organic produce between April and September and also continued visits to Open Table, Inc. making contact with challenged Concord individuals and families and providing referrals to a variety of needed services. The CSC also worked collaboratively with Concord Public Schools to provide outreach to challenged families.

The Community Services Coordinator continues to be a point of contact in conjunction with Council on Aging, Police and Fire Departments for the Concord Cares Emergency Fuel Assistance Program, which provides 75 gallons of home heating oil to any Concord resident who is in emergency need.

Residents can contact the Community Service Coordinator by phone or schedule a confidential appointment, either in the office or their home, to discuss their particular referral needs.

For additional information or assistance please contact:

- ♦Community Services Office at 105 Everett St.
♦978-318-3034
♦abuford@concordma.gov
- ♦on the Town website: www.concordma.gov
click on "Community Services"
on the "Town Departments" tab

YOUTH SERVICES COORDINATOR

Erin Duggan, Youth Services Coordinator

The position of Youth Services Coordinator for Concord and Carlisle was launched in January of 2011 with funding from the Community Chest. Coordinator Erin Duggan was hired to help improve the quality of life for Concord and Carlisle school-aged young people. She assists children by finding counseling for, and providing advice about, the problems they are struggling to deal with.

The Coordinator develops and maintains programs that enhance physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being for children as well as adults. Examples of these programs are: Middle School Pick-up Sports on Tuesday afternoons, Parent communication evenings, Open Microphone Night for High School students at Reasons to be Cheerful in West Concord, the "Kindness is Everywhere" program, and Pursuit of Happiness.

The Coordinator works with many Town agencies to allocate space and resources for these activities. For example, several of the programs utilize available space in Town libraries while outdoor activities often involve equipment that is made available by the Recreation Department.

To reach Erin Duggan, call (978)318-3043
or email eduggan@concordma.gov.
105 Everett St.

HUGH CARGILL TRUST COMMITTEE

Patricia MacAlpine, Chair
G. Peter Healey, Treasurer
Sandra Conrad, Clerk
J. Raymond Andrews
Henry Devlin

The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee continued to implement the mission of the Trust, established over 200 years ago by Concordian Hugh Cargill. The Trust's purpose is to provide short-term emergency assistance to residents of the Town in times of financial need. The Committee acts on behalf of the Board of Selectmen in receiving and reviewing requests for assistance and in distributing funds in accordance with the provisions of the Trust. Concord residents request aid by leaving a phone message at the Town House: 978-318-3100, ext. 2030. Calls are returned promptly. All requests are kept confidential.

Funds totaling \$61,884.64 were received in 2011 from the following sources: The Hugh Cargill Trust Fund: \$10,307.50; the Concord Municipal Light Plant: \$14,000; Concord Cares: \$402.14; Board of Selectmen Tax Relief Fund: \$37,175. Generous contributions from the Concord Municipal Light Plant and private donations were crucial to the Committee's efforts to meet the ever-increasing needs of Concord residents. The Committee met 12 times and approved 111 grants totaling \$36,252.46. The average grant was \$327.00. The majority of approved requests were for the payment of utility bills (electricity, oil, gas, and water). In addition, grants were approved for the payment of rent, car repairs, medical expenses, and insurance. The Committee also administered the abatement program for municipal curbside recycling and waste collection funded by Concord Public Works.

For the fifth year, the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee was designated by the Board of Selectmen to administer the tax-relief fund from monies raised in response to the Selectman's annual appeal. For the first quarter billing period, 47 Concord residents received a \$300 reduction in their tax bill. Due to the uncertainty of the availability of additional funds, for the final three quarterly tax periods grants were reduced to \$200 per household. The total amount of grants was \$41,300 benefitting fifty households. In September the Board of Selectmen authorized the formation of a Tax Relief Committee which will oversee the solicitation of funds for tax relief. The Hugh Cargill Trust Committee will continue to oversee the disbursement of any funds raised.

In addition the Hugh Cargill Trust Committee has administered the Concord Cares Fund for citizens in need of emergency fuel assistance. This fund was established in 2009 by the Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with the faith communities and other Town agencies.

The Committee continues to make known its existence and its mission through contacts with the Silent Fund, the Community Services Coordinator, the Concord Housing Authority, the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, the Community Chest, Open Table, the Salvation Army, the *Concord Journal*, local clergy, and other groups.

In light of the current economic conditions, the Committee anticipates 2012 will be another difficult year for many residents. We welcome private donations to continue the mission of providing short-term, emergency assistance to Concord residents. Donations may be sent to: The Hugh Cargill Trust at the Town House, P.O. Box 535, Concord, MA 01742. All contributions are tax-deductible.

CONCORDIANS HELPING CONCORDIANS