

PLEASE HELP GROTON HUMAN SERVICES HELP OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY!

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC HAS CREATED HARDSHIPS FOR MANY HOUSEHOLDS IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Many families and individuals are facing utility shut-offs and evictions due to loss of employment income. Moratoriums in effect for utilities and rent payments are a temporary relief that often leave households with staggering bills to pay when the moratoriums are lifted.

GROTON HUMAN SERVICES IS SEEKING DONATIONS FOR ITS PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST LOCAL RESIDENTS WITH UTILITY BILLS, RENT, FUEL OIL AND FOOD. ON THE DEPARTMENT'S WEB PAGE, THERE IS A "DONATE" LINK IF YOU WISH TO MAKE AN ON-LINE DONATION DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT:

<https://register1.vermontsystems.com/wbWSC/ctgroton.wsc/search.html?module=PSS&fmid=75516243#top>

DONATIONS VIA CHECK FOR ANY DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS MAY BE LEFT IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SECURE DROP BOX ADJACENT TO THE ENTRANCE OF THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING OR MAILED DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT.

GROTON UTILITIES ENERGY ASSISTANCE FUND (GU-EAF): Groton Human Services and GU established a partnership in 1993 that is still in effect. The goal is to help GU customers who are in need of emergency assistance to prevent shut-off of their electric service. **GU matches all donations to the GU-EAF at \$.50/\$1.00.** Human Services administers the GU-EAF, qualifies persons in need of assistance, makes a partial payment towards eligible GU customers' outstanding bills, communicates its assistance plan to GU and alerts each respective customer that any remaining balance will need to be paid or worked into a payment plan with GU to avoid future discontinuance of service. The GU-EAF is currently out of funds, having been exhausted by a large number of GU customers in need. Human Services is having to use other resources like Operation Fuel and the department's own Donations Trust Fund to help GU customers who are facing utility disruption when the current utility moratorium ends on Oct 1. **DONATIONS TO THE GU-EAF SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO GU-EAF AND MAILED TO GROTON HUMAN SERVICES, 2 FORT HILL ROAD, GROTON, CT 06340. (These donations cannot be made via the "Donate" link on the department's web page.)**

GROTON HUMAN SERVICES DONATIONS TRUST FUND (DTF): The DTF is utilized for many kinds of emergency assistance to local households including rent, food, utility, fuel oil and other assistance. The department depends on donations to keep this resource viable. The department also seeks grants from the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP), United Way of SE CT, the Community Foundation of Eastern CT, and Operation Fuel, each of which has specific guidelines and eligibility criteria. The DTF also supplements the Groton Food Locker account in maintaining adequate non-perishable food supplies in the Food Locker, year-round. **DONATIONS TO THE DONATIONS TRUST FUND MAY BE MADE OUT TO GROTON HUMAN SERVICES/DTF AND MAILED TO GROTON HUMAN SERVICES, 2 FORT HILL ROAD, GROTON, CT 06340**

GROTON FOOD LOCKER: The Groton Food Locker is available year-round to any Groton household in need of emergency food. Human Services maintains the food locker in the basement of its 2 Fort Hill Rd Building. Donations of canned and non-perishable food are always welcome. Protein-rich foods are especially needed: Tuna, mac n' cheese mixes, canned chicken and meat, beef stew, hearty soups, etc. **FOOD DONATIONS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE HUMAN SERVICES BUILDING IN A DESIGNATED,**

SECURE EXTERIOR AREA, M-F, 8:30-4:30PM. CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE GROTON FOOD LOCKER AND MAILED TO GROTON HUMAN SERVICES, 2 FORT HILL ROAD, GROTON, CT 06340

GIFT CARDS FOR HOLIDAY FOOD/TOY PROGRAMS: Out of an abundance of caution, Groton Human Services will not be providing its usual holiday distributions of food baskets and toys this year. Instead, it will be providing gift cards to eligible families and individuals in the Groton community. Additional information regarding how to apply for the holiday programs is available by calling Human Services at 860-441-6760 or checking out the HOLIDAY info on our web page or Facebook. DONATIONS OF GIFT CARDS IN ANY INCREMENTS UP TO \$100 WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. THE GIFT CARDS SHOULD BE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES INCLUDING TOY AND DEPARTMENT STORES, FOOD STORES, MOVIE THEATERS, FAST FOOD AND SITDOWN RESTAURANTS. THE GIFT CARDS MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT HUMAN SERVICES (CALL WHEN YOU GET HERE AND WE WILL MEET YOU OUTSIDE OUR BUILDING) OR THE CARDS MAY BE LEFT IN THE DEPARTMENT'S SECURE DROP BOX ADJACENT TO THE BUILDING'S FRONT ENTRANCE.

For more information, please call the Department at 860-441-6760. Our building is open by appointment only. We are handling applications for our various assistance programs via telephone, email, fax and computer links and many applicants are making use of our secure drop box to leave documentation of income, residency, etc. We are providing food via pre-scheduled appointments in a secure, well-marked exterior location adjacent to our building.