

ROCKINGHAM COMMUNITY ACTION

Rockingham Community Action is a private, non-profit organization that has been serving residents of Rockingham County for over 35 years. Our mission is to prevent, reduce, and work toward the elimination of poverty.

We provide a wide range of services that are unduplicated elsewhere in the county. Many of our services meet immediate, critical needs, while others are designed to provide families with the tools and resources to achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency. Our efforts are conducted through outreach and program offices in Derry, Exeter, Portsmouth, Raymond, Salem and Seabrook, as well as intake, clinic and distribution sites in over half of the county's thirty-seven communities. The following services were provided by Community Action to eligible residents of Newton from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005:

46 households received one of a group of Fuel Assistance Programs, services that provided financial grants of up to \$975 to low-income households to assist with energy-related expenses through the Fuel Assistance Program (some households also receive furnace cleaning, budget and energy counseling, and elderly support services), and grants of up to \$300 for fuel and utility emergencies for households not eligible for the Fuel Assistance Program through the Neighbor Helping Neighbor and the Senior Energy Assistance Service.

42 households received electric Assistance: Provides a discount ranging from 15% to 95% on monthly electric bills to low-income households.

3 households were enrolled in Workforce Development, which is the "umbrella" for a variety of programs designed to foster long-term self-reliance: Disadvantaged Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs; COMPASS Youth; Welfare to Work; and Wheels to Work. Each component helps clients determine goals and develop strategies to overcome barriers to employment. Wheels to Work enables low-income individuals to find or retain employment through the provision of dependable cars at affordable terms.

1 home received Housing Rehabilitation & Energy Conservation services through the Weatherization or Energy Management Programs, which provide high quality energy conservation materials and skilled labor to weatherize the homes of low-income and high energy-using households to reduce heating costs and conserve energy, and provides major repairs or replacement of heating systems for low-income homeowners; through the H.O.M.E. Program, provides major rehabilitation of single-family, owner-occupied homes, emphasizing health and safety related repairs, including water and septic systems, structural, roofing, electrical, and heating system work.

11 child care referrals were arranged through the Child Care Resource and Referral Program, which maintains an inventory of all available child care options, provides child care referrals to employees of participating companies and to the general public, and expands the supply of quality child care by recruiting, training and assisting new child care providers, including the training of TANF participants.

56 individuals received help through Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) or Commodity Supplemental Food Programs: WIC provides supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, breast-feeding support and health care screening/referrals to pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants, and children up to the age of five; the Commodity Supplemental Food Program provides monthly allotments of commodity foods and nutrition education materials to senior citizens, postpartum women, and 5-year-old children.

44 individuals received help with Literacy Services: Provide high quality books and other literacy services to low-income pre-school children and their families through the library-based Gift of Reading book distribution and the Tales to Go traveling literacy and arts van, and provides adult basic education services through the Portsmouth Adult Basic Education Program.

1 child was enrolled in Head Start, a comprehensive early childhood development program that provides education, health, nutrition, disability, and family support services to low-income pre-school children and their families.

4 household received services through the Homeless Outreach Intervention Program, which conducts outreach in areas frequented by the unsheltered homeless and assists the homeless with identifying shelter needs, arranging emergency transportation to shelters, and assisting shelter providers in arranging alternative shelter.

254 individual food allotments were provided through the Emergency Food Assistance Program, which distributes USDA surplus food to emergency food pantries and homeless shelters throughout Rockingham County.

4 household food allotments were provided through the Emergency Food Pantry, which provides emergency food allotments to households facing severe economic hardship in areas in which other locally-based emergency food pantries are under-stocked or unavailable.

4 household allotments of personal care items were provided through the Personal Care Program, which provides allotments of personal care items, including personal hygiene items and basic cleaning supplies, to households facing economic hardship.

1 household received assistance with crisis services: Provide emergency grants to low-income households for the payment of rent, mortgage, electricity, fuel or other basic necessities for households facing evictions, foreclosures, utility terminations, lack of fuel or other emergencies through various Crisis Programs; components include Homelessness Prevention Program and small privately-funded grant projects.

7 individuals received help through the Health Insurance Counseling, Education, and Assistance Service (HICEAS), which provides the services of trained volunteers to assist Medicare recipients with a wide range of health insurance needs, including supplemental health insurance options and Medicare and Medicaid benefits and claims.

25 households received Outreach Center Services: Include a wide range of services provided by Outreach Center personnel, including information and referral, client advocacy, direct client assistance, crisis intervention services and the coordination of community-based services.

Since the services we provide greatly relieve the towns we serve of the full financial burden of providing for the needs of their low-income residents, we ask every community we serve to make a financial contribution to our agency based upon the level of service we have provided to its residents. We extend our appreciation to you for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Neil McGuirk
Rockingham Community Action

ROCKINGHAM VNA & HOSPICE

Rockingham VNA & Hospice is a comprehensive, non-profit home health agency, founded more than 100 years ago, born out of a traditional American value – neighbors helping neighbors.

The mission of Rockingham VNA & Hospice is to always demonstrate to our patients, families and community that WE CARE by ensuring that...Well being is as important as being well. Excellence is delivered every time. Commitment is unconditional. Advocacy results in action. Respect and dignity are preserved. Encouragement and education enable independence.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Home Care Services: Many complex problems are being cared for in the home setting, rather than in the hospital. Our home care services bring together a variety of services and therapies that are provided in the home in lieu of, or following hospitalization, as prescribed by your physician.

When a physician prescribes home health care, a registered nurse is assigned to coordinate all of the patient's in-home services, assess patient needs, and in collaboration with the physician, develop an individualized "Plan of Care".

Coordination of services includes:

- Registered Nurses
- Physical Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Speech Therapists
- Certified Home Health Aides
- Medical Social Workers
- Registered Dietitian
- Coordination of Care and Case Management
- Referrals of Community Resources

Hospice Care: Hospice is a comprehensive, medically-directed, team-oriented program of care that seeks to treat and comfort terminally ill patients and their families, establishing pain management and symptom control as clinical goals, and understanding that psychological and spiritual pain are as significant as physical pain.

Adult Health Promotion Clinics: Our comprehensive Adult Health Promotion clinics provide intervention, education and prevention services designed to help older adults maintain their health and independence.

We currently provide more than 50 Adult Health Promotion Clinics (blood pressure, foot and flu) and programs at conveniently located sites throughout Rockingham County.

Specifically Rockingham VNA & Hospice provided home care and hospice services to 35 Newton residents. These services included 901 home visits and 102 visits to our community health promotion clinics. The gross revenue for these services was \$104,623. The un-reimbursed amount for the services provided was \$6,982. Funding for the un-reimbursed dollars is supported through funding from Newton, United Way and individual or group donations.

Rockingham VNA & Hospice thanks Newton residents for their continued support and the privilege to serve your community.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary L. Palmer
Executive Director

THE SAD CAFÉ

Services provided by The Sad Café are considered Prevention Services by State, Federal and County funding agencies. The services provided by The Sad Café ensure that there is a safe place where teens can gather in Rockingham County where they will be supervised in a safe and substance free environment. The Sad Café also provides many community services, such as family and parenting support workshops, and community based initiatives such as the Sanborn / Timberlane Safe and Drug Free Community Coalition. The Coalition was successful in securing state funds to provide an onsite substance abuse counselor to the Sanborn School District served in 2004/2005, and secured funds to provide a Family Resource Center to provide prevention services to area families. Once opened staff will arrange to present services to local Selectmen Boards. Additionally, The Sad Café initiated collaboration with Family Strength that resulted in a grant to that agency to provide Sanborn Students intensive home-based services for substance / alcohol involved youth and their families free of charge 2005/2006. The Sad Café also raises funds to augment school prevention activities, providing youth leadership training and internship services.

We averaged 175 Newton teens per year as attendees to evening music events. After school/summer program - counts 11 students from Newton. Additionally, we attend Plaistow Old Home Days and Kingston Days and two large resource fair events annually, providing alcohol/substance treatment and prevention information and resources to hundreds of residents. The Sad Café also provides for middle school dances for Newton youth and provides for Project Getting to Know You, aimed at easing transition to middle school. We anticipate 240 Newton clients for next year.

Continued community financial and technical support will be necessary to allow The Sad Café to provide the sustainable innovative prevention based programming that is so important to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our towns.

The Sad Café would like to thank the Newton residents for your continued support and the privilege to serve your community.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard C. Gerrish, Vice Chairman

SEACARE HEALTH SERVICES

Each year, SeaCare Health Services provides access to health care to many uninsured individuals who live in the Town of Newton. Services were assessed by 56 residents, which included:

- Twenty-eight (28) participants from Newton received care from our medical access programs, which include primary/specialty care, dental care, mental health counseling, laboratory work and care coordination.
- Five (5) participants received home visits through our health education program.
- Twenty-three (23) participants received free prescription through our Medication Bridge program.
- 2004/2005 the value of donated care for the Town of Newton reached \$77,210.

Our volunteer providers have donated \$2,187.136.00 this year alone. We thank them and the townspeople of Newton who support this agency. Your grant of \$2,000 last year helped keep our programs running. As you can see, the need continues to be great and we are once again submitting a request for funding in the amount of \$2,000 for the year 2006 to help support the services we offer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Crompton, Director

VIC GEARY CENTER

The Vic Geary Center serves as a senior center for seven towns: Plaistow, Hampstead, Atkinson, Sandown, Newton, Danville and Kingston. The following information will provide some insight into the diverse activities and services offered to the senior citizens of your community.

The Rockingham Nutrition & Meals on Wheels Program operates from the center 5 days per week providing a hot noon meal in the dining room and Meals on Wheels to homebound clients in the 7 towns. Frozen weekend and holiday meals are provided and meals comprised of shelf-stable items are provided for bad weather when delivery is impossible. During the past year, 34,183 meals were served from the center. Through this program, 39 residents of Newton received meals on a regular basis equaling approximately 3,785 meals for the year. Other town residents participate in special events throughout the year including special holiday and monthly celebrations for which formal records are just starting to be kept under the new Board of Directors at the center. In the 7-town area, 4,422 residents participated in the meals program. In addition to the meals, 17,464 units of social service including home visits, referrals, support counseling, care management, general information and advocacy were provided from the center. 2,417 units of transportation were provided and 2,350 hours of service were supplied by senior volunteers working at the center under the auspices of the Retired Volunteer Program.

Several area senior organizations regularly meet free of charge at the Vic Geary. A wide variety of day bus trips were offered and enjoyed by many area seniors this past year. A majority of the most popular trips had waiting lists of seniors that were unable to attend because trips are limited to 55 people, which is what one bus will hold. Currently the Town of Plaistow provides the funds to pay for most of the buses. Special meal celebrations for Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, summer picnic, lobster specials and other holidays are very well attended by approximately 100 – 125 persons from the 7 towns on each occasion. A van and driver provided daily transportation for those seniors wishing to attend clinics and meals.

Throughout the year, monthly blood pressure and twice a month foot care clinics are held at the center by Rockingham Visiting Nurses. Other clinics such as hearing and sight, safe driver and home safety are conducted regularly by area physicians and safety personnel. Fuel assistance intakes are done on an annual basis as well as tax preparation assistance. Informative guest speakers on subjects of interest such as financial planning are invited throughout the year. Fitness classes, dance classes, bingo, card and board games, knitting group and arts and crafts are daily recreational activities offered at the center. The WIC program now distributes surplus food monthly from the Vic Geary to income eligible area seniors and other area residents. There is also a member of Service Link working out of this facility. Service Link is an organization that assists people in finding providers to fill their services need.

The building is rented to private individuals and groups. Several non-profit organizations hold their meetings at the Vic Geary, including Trinity Charismatic Episcopal Church and the Knights of Pythias and Plaistow Lions. Other civic organizations are holding regular meetings free of charge. This year we may be losing the Church rental income at some point because their new building is starting construction in Kingston. Vic Geary's purpose is to provide a pleasant, safe gathering place for area senior citizens to congregate, eat a nutritious noon meal, participate in recreational activities; to provide necessary services such as blood pressure, foot and flu clinics, distribution of surplus foodstuffs, and fuel assistance intakes.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Weston, Secretary of
The Vic Geary Board of Directors

WEST NILE VIRUS

In 2005, New Hampshire led the nation with **Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)** activity. Statewide there were seven humans, including two deaths, nine horses, four alpacas, one llama, 15 mosquito pools and 54 birds with EEE. Newton had the heartbreaking distinction of being the town with the first human fatality from EEE in NH.

No one knows why so much encephalitis hit NH last year or if there will be a repeat in 2006 but everyone agrees that we must be ready. The State has legislation pending which would help towns pay for mosquito spraying. Whether it passes remains to be seen. On the local level, more towns than ever are planning to fund control programs. And public education remains an important tool in the fight against mosquitoes and encephalitis.

Here are some EEE facts:

- You get EEE from the bite of an infected mosquito.
- Not all mosquitoes transmit EEE.
- You cannot get EEE from a horse or from a mosquito that bites a horse.
- July thru October are the months when EEE is a threat.

Tips for homeowners:

- Get rid of standing water in containers: wheelbarrows, wading pools, tarps, boats, trash barrels, tires, etc. Cover, turn over or remove.
- Drill holes in bottom of recycling containers and trash barrels left outside.
- Check screens on windows and doors for holes. Repair or replace.
- Make sure all windows and doors have tight fitting screens.
- Do not turn on the light directly outside your front door. This shows the mosquitoes how to get into your house.
- Change bird bath water every 2-3 days.
- Aerate ornamental ponds or stock with fish.
- Keep rain gutters clean and draining properly.
- Drain water from pools covers.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools and hot tubs. If not in use, empty and keep covered.

Protect yourself from mosquito bites. This may not always be easy to do. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeve shirts, long pants and socks when outside during peak mosquito activity. Wear effective repellent. If using products containing the active ingredient DEET, then use up to 30% DEET for adults and 10% or less for children. Avoid applying repellent to the hands of children. They may touch their eyes or mouth.

The **State Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS)** paid for trapping of adult mosquitoes in September. Traps were set in six locations throughout town to catch adult mosquitoes. The mosquitoes were identified to species and sent to the State Lab in Concord for disease testing. Mosquitoes caught on September 12th at the Willow Road trap site tested positive for EEE.

Adulticiding, spraying to control adult mosquitoes, was done on September 14th at the Trailer Park on Willow Road, the Elementary and Middle School, the Skateboard Park on Heath Street, and Packers Meadow. The cold weather took care of the mosquitoes later in the month.

According to the 2006 State DHHS Arboviral Illness Surveillance, Prevention and Response Plan, Newton falls into Risk Category 3 - Moderate. This determination is based on the prior year activity. The recommended response for towns in this category include larval surveys of wetlands, trapping adult mosquitoes, source reduction, larviciding (spraying to control mosquito larvae), adulticiding.

The proposed 2006 Mosquito Control plan for Newton includes trapping mosquitoes for disease testing, sampling wetlands for larval mosquito activity, larviciding where mosquito larvae are found, and spraying adult mosquitoes at key locations throughout town during the months when EEE is a threat. The control program begins in April when mosquito larvae are located in stagnant water such as swamps, ditches, and vernal pools. Trapping adult mosquitoes and disease testing begins in June. Spraying adult mosquitoes begins late in July when EEE is active. The control program ends in late September or early October when temperature drop and daylight diminishes.

If you do not want your property treated for mosquitoes, then a written request is needed. Please send a letter to Dragon Mosquito Control, P.O. Box 46, Stratham, NH 03885. Be sure to include your name, physical address, phone number and a description of the property with boundaries. Otherwise your property may be treated. Our phone number is 964-8400. You may call our office for assistance regarding mosquitoes, the insecticides used, spray dates, WNV or EEE information.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah MacGregor, President
Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.
603-964-8400