



Community Planning Council

The Community Planning Council was established by Greenwich United Way to encourage the most effective and efficient health and human service delivery system for Greenwich. Comprised of community leaders, nonprofit service professionals, Greenwich United Way board members, and community volunteers, the work of the Planning Council, particularly through its periodic Needs Assessments, has led to the development of some of the Town's most valued programs and institutions.

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Community Planning Council Meeting Thursday 11/14, 8:30am, Basic Human Needs

Basic Human Needs: Neighbor to Neighbor

Mary Beth Minton, Interim Executive Director, Neighbor to Neighbor

According to the Greenwich United Way's Needs Assessment, poverty persists in Greenwich, with the percentage of individuals living in poverty at 5 percent (over 3,100 individuals), an increase over the levels reported since the 2010 Greenwich United Way Needs Assessment.

Highlights from the Presentation:

The presentation covered the history, mission and services that Neighbor to Neighbor offers. They focus their services in three core areas: food pantry, clothing room and basic living essentials. Their food pantry and clothing room focus on a client choice model. This helps to replicate the shopping experience in a store, serve their clients in an atmosphere of dignity and respect and provide options so clients can prepare home-cooked meals and wear clothes that best meet their needs.

In 2019, they distributed: 32,000 pounds of lean meat, 9,500 gallons of milk, 11,000 loaves of whole wheat bread, 60,000 pounds of fresh produce and 12,500 dozen eggs.

In 2019, they served: 1,500 Greenwich clients from 850 households, provided one-time emergency food to an additional 1,000 individuals, and distributed enough food for their clients to prepare approximately 400,000 meals. For services related to the clothing room, Neighbor to Neighbor served nearly 5,500 individuals from 1,750 households (21% from Greenwich) and collected/distributed 20,000 large bags worth of clothing.

Ms. Minton noted that despite Greenwich being a town of great wealth and our economy being at full employment, there is a significant portion of our population still struggling to make ends meet. The average cost of living in Greenwich is of course much higher than the national average. The 2018, CT United Way ALICE report found that it takes \$82,000 to provide the basic necessities, for a family of 4, living in Greenwich, versus \$25,750, which is the national average.

She noted some recent developments that might help to better serve low-income residents which include: The Town of Greenwich recently announcing that households will be eligible for town services if household income is less than 300% of the federal poverty level. This means that more individuals and families will be eligible for Neighbor to Neighbor services.

Next Community Planning Council Meeting:

Thursday, 12/05, 7:30 am, Greenwich Town Hall, Topic: Legislative Breakfast

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