



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Together We Make a Difference



Neenah-Menasha
Emergency Society

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

At the end of every fiscal year, we like to take some time and reflect on all we've accomplished in the past year, and what a year this has been! From our homebound seniors depending on our Meals on-Wheels routes to our students in need of supplies and more, COVID-19 has made the disparities in our community even more pronounced and our assistance even more critical.

Despite the challenges we're facing, our organization is committed to not just surviving, but thriving! This year's annual report shares stories and data of how the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society (NMES) supports those in need throughout the Neenah and Menasha communities. We've actually expanded our *Caring for Kids* program by increasing students' access to basic necessities and we created a new *Scholarship* program for high school students committed to attending a 2-year college or trade program. Our members sought out ways to safely continue serving Meals-on-Wheels and worked with local agencies to ensure homebound seniors received other supplies they may not be able to obtain as they previously had. With the help of our generous community sponsors, we did all of this without being able to hold our 11th Annual Kitchen Tour, our largest fundraiser of the year.

We are committed to our mission and to the communities that we serve, and we value and honor your commitment to the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society. Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to provide not just financial assistance, but dignity and hope to our community members. For more information on NMES, including a complete list of all our donors and sponsors, please visit our website at nmesociety.org.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society is to provide emergency resources to support residents of the Neenah-Menasha area who are unable to provide for their core needs.

CARING FOR KIDS

Wisconsin winters are long, cold and unpredictable. For students in our area, having proper winter gear is necessary for connecting with classmates at recess and getting safely home after school. Our *Caring For Kids* program does that by providing students in need with winter essentials including boots, coats and snowpants.

NMES recently expanded our *Caring For Kids* program to better meet the core needs of students experiencing homelessness and the challenges related to poverty. NMES was able to set up closets in several schools that provide backpacks, school supplies, basic clothing, personal hygiene, and feminine care kits. We also were able to add supplies for teen parents to help them meet the needs of their babies. Students were especially grateful for leggings, shorts, and sweatshirts with their school's logo. Counselors reported that students felt like they "fit in with everyone else" and that their confidence overflowed into other aspects of their lives. Our goal is to create strong relationships within the thirty-three schools in Neenah and Menasha over the next year to continuously identify needs and provide support.

After receiving winter gear and clothing for a student, a school counselor sent us a note saying, *"Thank you for giving my young friend the gift of pants and snow pants. We have already seen an increase in his independence as the larger sizes allow for easier dressing and undressing. Thank you!"*

Whether receiving necessities from the school "closet" or winter essentials, these items provide dignity for students and families that are a part of our schools and community.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Nearly 115 years ago NMES was created to assist people impacted by the catastrophic San Francisco earthquake. Today, we continue the mission of our founding sisters by providing emergency support to families in need right here in our local area. During the 2019-2020 fiscal year we provided emergency assistance in the form of rent and mortgage support, funeral expense assistance, welcome baskets for supportive housing residents, and utility payments. We also provided basic food & hygiene products for home-bound, low-income seniors during the COVID-19 crisis who were unable to leave their homes. Being able to act quickly, often within hours to days, to provide much needed assistance is one of the benefits of working in the very community in which we live.



COMMUNITY TABLE

Fox Valley Community Table is an ecumenical organization providing free, hot meals on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, located at 200 N. Commercial Street, Neenah. Our members come together four times throughout the year to provide, prepare and serve meals to community members in need of a hot meal and connection to the community they live in.



MEALS-ON-WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is a legacy program NMES and Valley VNA Senior Care have collaborated on since 1966. This service allows people, mostly senior citizens, to receive a hot, nutritious meal while meeting their specific dietary restrictions.

NMES members volunteer to deliver meals, while Valley VNA facilitates the logistics of the program and manages additional volunteers.

This program has seen a significant increase of clients due to COVID-19. Prior to March 2020, we served an average of 37 clients; however, as of May 2020 we were serving an average of 49 clients, an increase of nearly 33% over a 2-month period. If you know of anyone who might benefit from this service or enjoy serving the community in this way please contact Valley VNA Senior Care.



SCHOLARSHIP

In 2018, NMES members started discussing the possibility of using the investment earnings generated from our Board-Designated endowment fund specifically for scholarships to local 2-year traditional or technical colleges. By working closely with counselors and teachers at the local high schools, we developed a scholarship program aimed at students with significant financial and other barriers to continuing their education. By providing tuition assistance to students where post-secondary college is not a possibility without our scholarship, we are able to help break the cycle of poverty and get students the training they need for a successful career. We are happy to report that during this past fiscal year, our first scholarship was awarded to a Neenah student who will be attending Fox Valley Technical College this fall.

"As a former NMES member, I am aware of the many needs in our community. I give to NMES because I know the money goes directly to local families. I particularly enjoy supporting children as they get ready to begin the school year."

Betty King, Neenah

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR

The Back-to-School Fair has been part of NMES since 2006. Helping students and families start the new year prepared for success is one way we see our mission in action. In August 2019, the back to school fair provided 950 qualifying students with a backpack, necessary school supplies and a certificate toward the purchase of a new pair of shoes. The fair also provides our families an opportunity to connect with local agencies offering additional services and resources.



"I decided to join NMES after I volunteered as a community member at the Back-To-School Fair. It truly opened my eyes to the great need in our community. After learning more about NMES and their mission, I knew this was a group I wanted to be a part of."

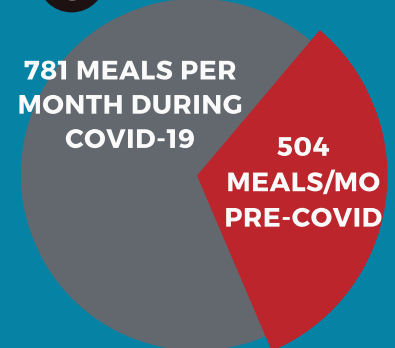
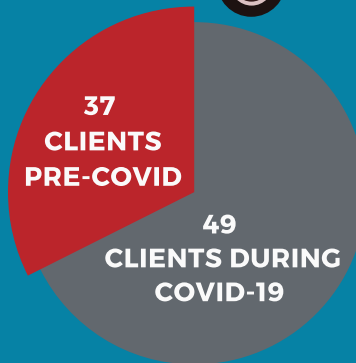
Nikki Winiecki, Neenah

BY THE NUMBERS

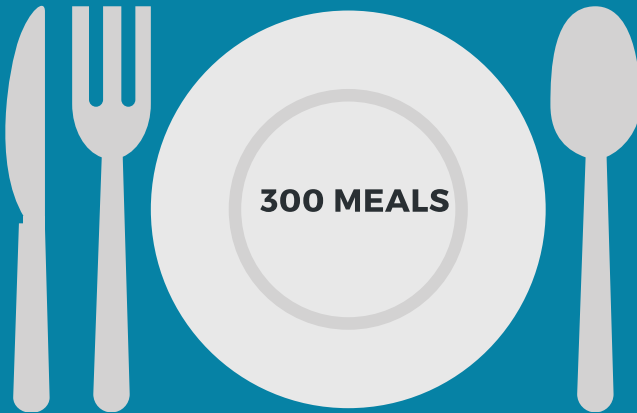
BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR 2019



MEALS-ON-WHEELS



COMMUNITY TABLE



CARING FOR KIDS



300 MS & HS STUDENTS
AT RISK/HOMELESS
ASSISTANCED THROUGH
CLOSETS STOCKED WITH
BASIC NEEDS ITEMS

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

136 INDIVIDUALS
IN 47 DIFFERENT HOUSEHOLDS



A TOTAL OF 1,663
PEOPLE ASSISTED
THROUGH NMES
PROGRAMS



The 2020 Kitchen Tour, sponsored by Nicolet National Bank, was scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2020. Five homes in the area at the north end of Lake Winnebago were selected and North Shore Golf Club was to host the Kitchen Boutique and dining experience. New to this year's fundraiser, a sixth home was added to host a cooking demonstration by Field & Fire.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 11th Anniversary Kitchen Tour was canceled. We attempted to reschedule for the fall, however, as the seriousness of the health risks became evident, this option did not seem feasible. A video was created as a reflection of past Kitchen Tours, emphasizing the assistance NMES provides to the ongoing needs in Neenah and Menasha. We were grateful for the generous donations from our sponsors and the community, despite the cancellation of the Kitchen Tour. Stay tuned for details as we hope to recreate this amazing event in the Spring of 2021!

Thank you to all of our sponsors and donors, without whom we would be unable to provide these life-changing programs. Listed below are our Title Sponsor, Home Sponsors, and Kitchen Boutique Sponsor. For a complete list of contributors, please see our website nmesociety.org.

2020 KITCHEN TOUR TITLE SPONSOR

Nicolet National Bank

2020 HOME SPONSORS

- Lakeside Associates - Thrivent Financial
- First Weber Foundation
- Legacy Private Trust Company
- Bergstrom Automotive
- Trout Museum of Art
- Hoffman-Strobel Builders
- U.S. Venture, Inc.

2020 KITCHEN BOUTIQUE SPONSOR

North Shore Golf Club

THANK YOU

We would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to all of Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society's donors from July 2019 to June 2020.

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^ FUNDS HELD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
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* DONATIONS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED
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NOTE: WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR ALL OF OUR DONORS
AND APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INADVERTENT OMISSIONS
OR MISSPELLINGS. PLEASE CONTACT US AT
NMESOCIETY@GMAIL.COM SO WE MAY MAKE ANY
NECESSARY CORRECTIONS.