

HELP *at* H.O.M.E.

WELCOME ALDRICH RELIEF FUND Holden Outreach – Managing Emergencies

Annual Report for 2009

HELP at H.O.M.E. (Holden Outreach Managing Emergencies) is an organization created in July, 2008 to help Holden residents find information and other resources to deal with household emergencies, such as having no food in the cupboard or no oil in the tank. It is to work in conjunction with the Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund (see Fuel Assistance).

The Mission Statement is as follows:

"Recognizing that we all need a place to turn to for information and support, HELP at H.O.M.E. provides the residents of Holden assistance in meeting their needs."

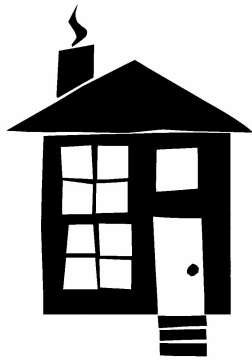
There are 7 components to the assistance available:

Food: The Wachusett Food Pantry is available to seniors on the Friday prior to distribution and to others on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The Pantry also has a program where homebound seniors can fill out a "grocery list" and volunteers go to the food pantry on their behalf, gather the requested items and deliver them. From July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009 the Wachusett Food Pantry served about 48,000 pounds of food (~4000 pounds every month) to 1585 families or 4198 people (~400 people per month) from each of the 5 towns of the Wachusett region, with residents of Holden being in the majority.

Fuel Assistance (and other monetary needs): There were 53 requests for help, which resulted in \$9785.04 being distributed through the Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund (17 total disbursements). This fund was started on February 1, 1937, with a bequest of \$400 "to be used for the relief of the worthy poor of Holden." Only the income can be used, not the original \$400. The Welcome Aldrich Committee is willing to help any resident of Holden in need. HELP at H.O.M.E. partnered with the Worcester Community Action Council which resulted in a dramatic increase in Holden residents being able to receive fuel assistance via governmental means.

508-829-0271

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Fire Safety: The Holden Fire Department created and had printed fire safety and fire prevention fliers which were distributed via HMLD bills and also at Holden Public Safety Day in October.

Foreclosure: Awareness and prevention information is included in the Booklet printed in November, 2008 (see below).

Fitness (Energy Conservation): Working with Energy New England and increasing awareness with the help of HCTV, 75 energy audits were completed in the first fiscal year to help improve the energy efficiency of those residences.

Facts (HELP at H.O.M.E. booklet): HELP at H.O.M.E. booklets were printed in November, 2008 and distributed at various public buildings, churches, town organizations, as well as at town events. There will be a 2010 printing in November, 2009.

Fundraising: This was accomplished by a "Speak Out" to all the churches in Holden, along with reaching out to various local businesses, civic organizations, and placing an envelope and flyer in the HMLD billing for December. The response was heart-warming to the extent that HELP at H.O.M.E. and the Welcome Aldrich Relief Fund (W.A.R.F.) collected \$22,646, including \$579 in interest income on the W.A.R.F. funds.

There will be booklets and magnets at various places around Holden Days alerting residents to ways of getting help and ways of helping others.

The members of HELP at H.O.M.E. are:

Co-Chairs: Brian Bullock & Karen Halley; Treasurer: Jim Robinson; Secretary: Maureen Buffone; Jack Chandler, Louise Charbonneau, Donna Cross, Paula Earley, Donna Fitch, Jacquie Kelly, Susan Marsh, Cheryl Owoc, Mark Sanborn, Rich Simpson, Johnny Suire, Joe Sullivan, Steve Yerdon

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