



Town of Needham, Massachusetts Media Release

Office of the Town Manager
Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave, Needham, MA 02492

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Council Helps Boost Gift of Warmth Program During Pandemic

NEEDHAM – Tuesday, April 6, 2021 – The Needham Department of Public Health was able to help keep Needham residents warm during the winter months of the Covid-19 pandemic thanks to the generosity of the Needham community through the Needham Community Council.

The Council recently doubled its annual contribution to the Town’s Gift of Warmth Program, which provides assistance to Needham residents with overdue utility bills or those at risk of having a utility shut off. The Council has seen a surge in demand for its food pantry during the pandemic and conducted a needs assessment among clients to determine what other forms of aid they needed.

“There has been a significant increase in the number of residents who are in need of community support during these challenging times,” said Needham Community Council Executive Director Sandra Robinson. “The Needham Health and Human Services Department has been a partner of ours for a long time, and we are glad that we could continue that partnership in a way that really addresses the basic needs people have right now.”

Thanks in large part to the Council’s support, Needham Public Health has been able to help 19 residents, 16 of whom received assistance for the first time. The Gift of Warmth has also received \$1,250 in donations from residents and other organizations since November 2020.

“We’re incredibly grateful to the Community Council for helping us meet the need that exists in Needham,” said Tiffany Zike, assistant director of Public Health. “This pandemic has been tough on so many families and we’re glad that, working together, we can help people stay healthy and safe in their homes.”

About the Gift of Warmth

Funded by the tremendous generosity of community partners, faith-based organizations, and individual residents, the Gift of Warmth fund helps Needham residents with overdue utility bills and/or those persons or families at risk of having a utility shut off.

The Gift of Warmth program is administered by the Needham Health & Human Services Department and is available to any Needham resident in need. Documentation of that need in the form of a final shut-off

notice or an overdue utility bill in paper copy is required. To speak with a staff member about the Gift of Warmth program please call the Public Health Division at 781-455-7940 and speak to one of the Public Health Nurses or email publichealthnursing@needhamma.gov, or call the Aging Services Division at 781-855-3629 and speak with one of the Social Workers.

Donate by sending a check to “Town of Needham – Gift of Warmth.” Checks may be dropped off in the locked drop boxes outside of Town Hall, the Public Services Administration Building or the Rosemary Complex. They can also be mailed to Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Ave., Needham, MA 02492. You can also make a donation [online](#).

About the Needham Community Council

The Needham Community Council is a private non-profit organization which supports people in Needham who have under-met health, educational or social needs and promotes volunteerism, community, and a sense of shared responsibility. The Needham Community Council receives no Federal, State or Local Tax Dollars. The Council is funded only by the generosity of our Needham neighbors.

If you or anyone you know is in could benefit from our services, we encourage you to contact us. Visit www.needhamcouncil.org for more information.

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