You kept your neighbors safe and well

Mary loves her home. She has worked hard to pay off her debts and cover her rent each month.

But Mary’s Section 8 housing voucher, a federal program to help very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled afford safe and sanitary housing in the private market, was delayed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Then she was laid off from her job at a local hotel. Mary began to suffer mentally and financially.

“If I can’t pay my bills, I get more stressed. And when I get really stressed, I start to have more seizures because of my epilepsy,” she said.

Mary needed help paying her rent and thanks to you, that

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Ambrosio works in an orchard, but he doesn’t earn very much. He said being able to come to the Community Cupboard helps a lot. Ambrosio is one of the 645 families who have visted the Cupboard food bank since January 2020.

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help was available. It made a huge difference.

“You’ve given me the opportunity to continue on having a happy life,” she said.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many hard-working community members just like Mary. But your response was swift.

It began with the Leavenworth Rotary Club’s Community Assistance Campaign offering to match the first $15,000 raised to help community members.

You met that match in three days.

Two more anonymous community members came forward and offered to match the next $20,000 donated.

You met that match in four days.

In a three-week period you and others like you donated $78,260 to help provide access to healthy food and support with utility, rent and mortgage payments during the uncertain

“Seventy-five percent of my stress just went away.” Mary

Maria works in the packing sheds to support her family. Her husband is disabled, so she is the sole breadwinner. When she is out of work, she knows she can come by the Community Cupboard and get some much-needed groceries. “It helps a lot,” she said. “I don’t need food all the time, but once in a while I do when I don’t have work.”

Over the years, Judy has been able to receive help from the Community Cupboard when needed. At one point when she was homeless with her son, she said she needed the Cupboard’s help “really badly.” Right now she has less work cleaning houses because of COVID-19 so she is getting some extra groceries from the Cupboard. “It’s always here when I need it,” she said. “I love that.”
From January through June 2020 you have helped:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>families with their rent or mortgage, preventing homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>families with their utility bills, preventing shut-offs and keeping families warm and safe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>families with fuel or transportation costs, getting them to the doctor or work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>families with shelter when they were homeless, providing rest and security.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>645</td>
<td>families with food, ensuring no one in our community has to go to bed hungry.</td>
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</tbody>
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Mary’s story is not unique. You have lifted anxiety and worry from so many of your neighbors.

Neighbors like parents John and Susan who both lost their jobs due to COVID-19. Initially they didn’t qualify for unemployment and they fell behind on the rent.

When one parent was able to start receiving unemployment they got caught up on the rent. But they couldn’t cover both the rent and water bill.

The City of Leavenworth is not shutting off service during the COVID-19 crisis, but when you helped this family with their water bill you reduced their stress and stopped them having a bill in the future they could not pay.

You, and donors like you, are making a difference every day in the Upper Valley. Thank you.

“Thank you! Your help and your donations are very much appreciated by our community.”

Susan

"Thank you! Your help and your donations are very much appreciated by our community."

Susan
Cornerstone volunteer back after a year-long ordeal

Volunteers are the life blood of Upper Valley MEND and Anna Jean McDaniel is a very special volunteer. After a year of fighting cancer, she is once again caring for her Cornerstone family.

Cornerstone Community is a residential home for adults with learning disabilities in Leavenworth. Anna Jean, 76, and her husband Mike were Cornerstone’s first residential managers in 2011. Their son Micah was one of the first residents.

When Carl Florea took over as Cornerstone manager, Anna Jean worked as a caregiver and nurse delegator, right up until last year when she received her cancer diagnosis.

Anna Jean McDaniel is back at Cornerstone Community after a tough year battling cancer.

“It was not a good diagnosis,” Anna Jean said.

Unable to walk for eight months, Anna Jean went through chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. A recent X-ray showed no evidence of cancer. Anna Jean is walking again, and volunteering part-time at Cornerstone.

“It’s just a few hours a week,” she said. “I hope to be able to do more as needed and as my stamina increases.”

Florea said that Anna Jean is many things for Cornerstone.

“Anna Jean is more than a parent of one of our residents, more than a caregiver, more than our nurse delegator and our first resident manager. We all owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude and are so happy that she wants to continue to be a part of our family here.”

For Anna Jean, “It just feels right,” to be back.

“She is truly the mother of our loving home environment that is woven in and through all we do and all we are at Cornerstone Community.” Carl Florea. Cornerstone Manager

Anna Jean has also been a volunteer with Micah at the Community Cupboard.
Dean DeWees has many stories to tell from his long life as a master musician. He’s played with some of the greats, such as Eddie Peabody and on the Lawrence Welk Show. But he often didn’t know where his next meal was coming from.

“I remember when all I had was one potato in the house,” Dean said. “We had some seasoning for steak, so we cooked it up and pretended it was steak.”

Dean, 83, is a successful trumpet player despite losing his arm below the elbow when he was five years old. Gangrene set in after a broken arm was cast too tight and his arm had to be amputated.

He said that although he made money playing music, it was an expensive business and he has struggled over the years. When he moved back to the Upper Valley, Dean started shopping at the Community Cupboard.

“I remember when all I had was one potato in the house.”
Dean DeWees

Now he is able to give back.

“I’m not rich by any means,” he said. “But I have some money in the bank and my wallet for the first time. I’m not worried about where my next meal is coming from.”

Dean still plays the trumpet every day. Whenever he can, he drops by the Cupboard to leave a donation to make sure there is help for the next person in need.

Dean DeWees (right) gives Community Cupboard Manager Bob Mark a donation to help feed hungry families in the Upper Valley.
Endowment will help meet future needs

This year MEND is the recipient of Community Foundation NCW’s $50,000 endowment grant. This is one of their most competitive grants and is only available once every two years. It is an honor that we were selected out of all the applicants across North Central Washington.

In a press release, Claire Oatey, director of the foundation’s community grants, said MEND was chosen because of strong board and staff leadership, a readiness to grow the endowment, and a clear vision for how this opportunity will take the organization to the next level.

“A sign of the times - a screenshot of the Zoom interview with Community Foundation. From left, Leslie Freytag, Claire Oatey, Peter Valaas, Mark Spurgeon and Anne White with the Community Foundation, and Tricia Ortiz, Kaylin Bettinger, Andy Lane, Jose Hurtado and Katie Walker with Upper Valley MEND.

“Over the last 30 years, our community has built a wonderful organization to support basic needs and community connection in the Upper Valley,” said Kaylin Bettinger, MEND’s executive director. “This endowment grant will ensure Upper Valley MEND’s services will be available for those in need long into the future. Thank you Community Foundation!”

Growing the endowment will be important so that in time the interest paid out will cover more and more expenses.

One of the ways we hope to grow the endowment is through planned giving. Donors interested in leaving a gift in their will to care for the Upper Valley’s most vulnerable residents in the future can leave a gift to the endowment fund. As the fund grows, so does the power of their gift to make a difference in the community.

Andy Lane, president of the board, said the endowment award is recognition of the community’s compassion for those in need.

“This recognizes and honors the commitment the people of our community have made to our neighbors in need,” he said.

To learn more about leaving a gift to Upper Valley MEND in your will, visit www.uvmend.org/leave-a-gift-in-your-will.
Business community steps up in time of need

Since the coronavirus hit in March, local businesses have donated $46,121 worth of high-quality food to help keep families fed.

The Boyd family owns the Bavarian Lodge and several retail stores in Leavenworth. When the businesses closed down, they immediately thought about how it would affect their employees and the community and what they could do to help.

“The Community Cupboard was our first thought,” Taylor said. “We knew it was the best avenue to have the biggest impact.”

The Boyds redirected their existing relationship with their food supplier to deliver perishable staples, like milk and vegetables, to the Cupboard every Friday.

Laura Waltar, Community Cupboard intern, said that the food donated by businesses during the pandemic has made a difference.

“Generous donations from the Bavarian Lodge continue to allow us to distribute fresh dairy items and staples,” Laura said. “When so much is changing, ready-made soups and dishes from restaurants such as Yodelin and Munchen Haus provide community members with healthy meals to rely on. Thank you to all the community partners for thinking of your neighbors.”

Above: Bavarian Lodge’s Andy Stanich greets Cupboard assistant manager Laurie Peek as he delivers more groceries. Below: Muchen Haus’ Elise Brulotte delivers cooked meals every Tuesday.
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Jubilee Global Gifts
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(509) 548-3508

Cornerstone Community
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Volunteers are bringing healthy food to the valley

11,609 pounds of fresh food harvested and delivered to those in need

152 hours of volunteers’ time to make a difference in their community

30 farms and backyards have provided quality produce for gleaning