

# Window on Main Street

## Church & Community Program

NOVEMBER 2019

# The Grinch stole kids' gifts

The Grinch beat Santa to the Giving Tree this year. We were dismayed to discover that someone had stolen nearly \$4,000 worth of new pajamas and Lego toys from our holiday gift program.

Police are investigating; if anyone has information that may help, please notify them. We'll post updates on our Facebook page and on Constant Contact emails.

We're disgusted that anyone would

steal kids' gifts from a charity but are profoundly appreciative of the support that has poured in from the community, as good people step forward to replace the PJs and gifts. Your support is outstanding and it means much to us personally. Thank you.

Giving Tree serves about 400 kids each year, providing handknit hats, mittens, and scarves; books; new winter jackets; toys and games; sports equipment; crafts; PJs and

more. In addition, the parents receive a food certificate to stock up for the holidays.

Applications have been coming in for weeks and are due by Dec. 6. Gift tags are being distributed now for donors to choose a gift, and gifts are due here (7 Main St.) by Dec. 8. The mountain of presents will be sort and organized at the Canton fire station on Riverside for parents to pick up on Dec. 13 and 14.

## Stepping out in style



CCP's Fall Fashion Frolic, held on Oct. 26 at the Canton United Methodist Church, was a delightful way to promote our Second Chance Shop. Thank you to our team of models and the fun-loving audience. We met new friends, raised money, and had a good time. Models included, from left: Janet Stitt of CCP; Rev. Nancy Hale, new pastor of Canton UMC; and Todd Moe of North Country Public Radio. Hats off to the models, our CCP decorating team and the fashion show committee. Well done! (Yes, you can buy the outfits, and more, at our shop).

## *Oh-oh, this is not a great design plan, but here's a little more news*

Our pantry served 252 local households last month. We appreciate all donations, and they go

quickly. To round out our offerings, here's our pantry wishlist: Hearty soups, including chicken noodle

soup; canned meat and stews; macaroni & cheese; treats such as cake or brownie mixes; and toilet-

ries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant.

# Around the table

By Director Connie Jenkins

## Choices

A man came into our Second Chance Thrift Shop the other day to donate clothes. They were clean and in excellent condition, so someone will get a great deal. As I thanked the donor, he asked if people ever donate underwear. He had some new things that he didn't like, and just wondered if it's appropriate to offer them.

I replied that we have had men's and women's underwear donated before, and people do select them. Socks are especially popular.

He hesitated a bit. "Well, they're all clean and good. I just wasn't sure."

*When I was almost 15, fire swept through our house on a Saturday morning in October. I was upstairs, the last one out. Even as I dodged flames wrapping around the stair railing and peeling off the living room wallpaper, I thought things would end up OK. The house was gutted in 15 minutes, though. My mother lost her home and a lifetime of belongings. We truly only had the clothes we were wearing, and this was before the days when people ran fundraisers for fire victims. But we all escaped without physical injury.*

*A good friend lived down the street, so my mother sent me home with her for a few hours. My friend's mother sent us both upstairs to get me some clothes. My friend and I were about the same size. She carefully picked through her dresser, then handed me underpants, socks and bra as she evaluated jeans and shirts for me.*

*I mumbled thank you and promised to wash and return them. "You can just keep them," she said.*

Back to 2019: "I know what you mean," I said. "It's hard to not have brand new stuff, but sometimes you just don't have a choice. Clean underwear from someone else is better than none."

The sad fact is, so many people just don't have new good underwear and nice clean, warm socks. Somewhere along the way, they lost the privilege of being able to have a choice. That's one thing we try hard to do at Church & Community Program. We believe everyone deserves to have decent stuff and we give them as much choice as possible about what they get.

We do that with your help. Whether you donate clothes and food, buy from our shop, or volunteer with us, you make it possible for us to do what we do. Thank you very much.



THANK YOU! Canton Kiwanis has long been a generous supporter of our Giving Tree holiday gift program, and Rick Glidden presented Fran Bailey with a check for \$1,000. He made the presentation at our Oct. 26 fashion show, where he was one of our models.



THANK YOU! Northern New York Community Foundation awarded a \$1,000 grant to Church & Community Program's pantry. We used the money to buy two loads of food from Food Bank of Central New York. Shown here with one of the loads are John Turcotte of CCP and our Food Bank driver, Devin Charles.



#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving back. On Tuesday, Nov. 27, join people around the world in supporting a local cause close to your heart. Please remember Church & Community Program with a donation to the food pantry. Or pick up a tag for the Giving Tree holiday gift program. Shop at our Second Chance Thrift Shop, or ask about volunteering.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, please choose Churches of Canton as your charity. Thanks!

# Fall Fashion Frolic 2019

*Fashion, food & fun!*



Our models did a wonderful job showcasing clothes from our Second Chance Thrift Shop. The afternoon included music, door prizes and desserts. Top row: Martha Cole, Cliff Westerling, JoAnn DenBleyker, Ed Pcolar. Middle: Sharon White, an eager audience, our friends from North Country Crusaders. Third row: Fran Bailey kicking it off, Pat Alden with the prize drawing box, Cheryl Glidden thanks commentator Hailey Hodge of Luna Boutique, and the break for dessert. Thank you to all involved, and to Canton UMC for providing the venue for our show.



# Holiday heroes



People have been quick to step up to help after someone stole Giving Tree presents for kids. At left, John Turcotte accepts a check for \$1,000 from Lisa Butler and her husband, Pat, of Star Route Auto Service in Canton. At right, the union at Riverview Correctional Facility in Ogdensburg donated \$1,000 in memory of Jeffrey Hyde. Hyde, who served 5 years in the Army, was attending SUNY Canton when he died in a recent car crash. His parents, John and Christine, attended the check presentation. From left are James Bell, NYSCOPBA; John Hyde; Fran Bailey and Pat Alden of CCP; Christine Ormsbee; and Kevin O'Neil, NYSCOPBA. We deeply appreciate everyone's generosity.

Mark your calendars for Lights on the River, Dec. 14-22 at Lisbon Beach. The display raises money and food for all the food pantries in the county. BELOW: SUNY Canton roommates Josh Karp, left, and Sam Lawrence straighten out the storeroom after a Food Bank delivery. Thanks guys!



Happy 10th anniversary to Lights on the River!



LEFT: Thank you to St. Lawrence Co. Office for the Aging. They donated much appreciated milk to us and even delivered it! Shown are OFA Director Andrea Montgomery, CCP Director Connie Jenkins, Christiana DeForge, Danielle Durant, Cindy Ayer and Marty Bice.