

GENERAL ASSISTANCE SOCIAL SERVICES

WENDY LANK, ADMINISTRATOR

The Town of Arundel administers a program of general assistance available to all persons who are eligible to receive assistance in accordance with the standards of eligibility as provided in 22 MRSA §4301 et seq. General Assistance is actually older than the State of Maine. It stems from the Elizabethan "Poor Laws". The administrators were called "Overseers of the Poor". Over the years, General Assistance has continued, but the laws have changed many times. We are a "safety net program" which provides for the immediate aid of persons who are unable to provide the basic necessities for themselves or their families. The General Assistance program is mandated by the State of Maine Legislature and local ordinance. During the 2013 fiscal year, \$7,027.62 was expended out of the General Assistance account. The Department of Health and Human Services approves the ordinance and reimburses the Town 50% of all general assistance granted. This office was found in compliance with the State standards when the Department of Human Services performed their annual audit. Clients who do not qualify for financial assistance receive guidance in finding available resources.

List of basic necessities include housing, electricity, heating fuel, food, medicine, transportation to doctor's and employment, child care if needed and telephone if medically necessary.

Items that are not considered basic necessities include cable television, cigarettes, alcohol, cell phone's (unless medically necessary and you have no land line), costs associated with pet care and court fines paid among others.

If you find yourself in need of assistance please give me a call. I will set up an appointment for you to come in and also tell you what items I will need you to bring in with you when applying. Just a reminder, do not wait until you have run out of heating fuel or the day before your electricity will be disconnected to call me because I am not always available right away to take the application.

State of Maine Property Tax Fairness Credit

The Maine Residents Property Tax and Rent Refund "Circuitbreaker" Program has been repealed as part of the enacted state budget for claims beginning on or after August 1, 2013. The Circuitbreaker Program has been replaced by a refundable Property Tax Fairness Credit that can be claimed on the Maine Individual Income Tax Form.

The new credit will be available beginning in **January, 2014** on the 2013 Maine Individual Income Tax Form 1040ME. A worksheet will be included with Form 1040ME to calculate the amount of the credit. To claim the credit, an applicant must file the 2013 Form 1040ME and the Property Tax Fairness Credit Worksheet, which will be available in January, 2014.

Social Services

There are a number of Social Service Programs available to the residents through our office. Those programs are:

The **Church Community Food Pantry** – Resident's call my office to request a food order. Their food basket will be brought to the town hall for the resident to receive. Anyone wishing to make a donation may take food items to Saint Martha's Church, Route One in Kennebunk. Also on Friday at 11:00 a.m. sharp the Church Community Outreach Services offers a fresh produce/bakery goods distribution at Saint Martha's.

Church Community **Fuel Outreach Services** – Resident's who are in need of heating fuel and have applied for and are found ineligible for Emergency General Assistance may receive up to 100 gallons in a single heating season. The heating season runs from the months of November through March.

Church Community Outreach Services – Help those residents, who would otherwise go without, with a **holiday food basket**. All requests are done through the General Assistance Office.

Project Pilgrim – Annual complimentary Thanksgiving Day dinner prepared and served at Saint Martha's Church in Kennebunk. Volunteers welcome hundreds of guests each year and also make deliveries to homebound individuals. FMI, contact (207) 967-1911 The Noel Dinner – Annual complimentary Christmas Day dinner prepared and served at Saint Martha's Church in Kennebunk. This fes-

tive celebration features a delicious meal and holiday entertainment. FMI, contact (207) 967-1911

Secret Santa –provides unwrapped Christmas gifts to families with children who otherwise would go without. Applications are available in the General Assistance Office from around the first of October to the first week in November.

Elder Elves – The Senior Center at Lower Village provides wrapped Christmas gifts for elderly homebound residents who have no family and otherwise would not receive a gift for the holiday.

Monthly Meals – Community Harvest sponsors, HARVAST CAFÉ, which provides delicious monthly complimentary dinners. Dinners are held on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church located at 2 Lord Street in Kennebunk.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church sponsors, **SHARE THE BOUNTY**. Dinners are held on the first Saturday of each month from 4:00-6:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church located at 2 Lord Street in Kennebunk.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church sponsors, **FRIENDSHIP LUNCHEON**. Luncheons are held on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 pm at Holy Cross Lutheran Church located at 2 Lord Street in Kennebunk.

The **Biddeford Free Clinic** – The Clinic provides free medical care and non-narcotic prescription medication for those without health insurance. People with private insurance, MaineCare and Medicare are ineligible. Hours are Monday and Thursday from 6:00-9:00 pm with registration at 5 pm, first come, first served for 12 patients per night. The clinic is located at the J. Richard Martin Community Center 189 Alfred Street in Biddeford. FMI, contact (207) 282-1138

York County Community Action Free Clinic
32 Patriots Lane, Sanford, Maine
Hours: 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday
FMI, contact (207) 490-6900

Any resident of Arundel who is in need of assistance or who has questions concerning federal, state, or county programs, please call 985-4201 to schedule an appointment.