



CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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GREGORY J. EDWARDS
County Executive

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County Executive Calls Upon Residents to Help Rural Ministry

Mayville: -- Last weekend the Chautauqua County Rural Ministry in Dunkirk experienced a severe sewage leak that caused damage to the offices, Friendly Kitchen, and Garment Gallery located on its lower floor. As a result, many of the items collected for the nonprofit organizations' Christmas programs were contaminated and destroyed.

"We tried to fix the problem by snaking the drain, but after the snake became stuck we had to call in a plumber," said Chautauqua County Rural Ministry Executive Director Kathleen Peterson. "We are now looking at an expense of \$15,000 to have the street dug up to remove it and as a nonprofit organization, we just don't have the funds to do so."

Despite this recent misfortune, the organization continues to remain positive and help reach out to children and families this holiday season. Peterson said they continue to collect applications for their holiday giving program until December 13th, but many more items are still needed to bring Christmas cheer to needy children this holiday season.

"The Chautauqua County Rural Ministry has done so much for the Dunkirk Community," said County Executive Greg Edwards. "When members of our community are in need, Rural Ministry has leant them a helping hand and now I think it is time that we repay their kindness by helping them during their time of need."

Peterson said that last year the CCRM provided toys to 349 children and they anticipate the need to be just as great this year. They are currently seeking toy donations for children ages 0-12. Some items include: toy cars and trucks, action figures, Barbie Dolls, Transformers, Thomas the Tank Engine, craft items, and musical toys.

They are also seeking donations for their holiday food boxes. Their goal this year is to provide 250 families in need with the food to help prepare their holiday meal. Items needed include: Ham or Turkey, Boxed Stuffing, Canned Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Boxed Desserts, Fresh or Boxed Potatoes, and Pie Crust.

Other perishable and non-perishable food donations can also be made to help the Friendly Kitchen prepare meals. Residents can also donate homemade or store bought pies to be served during the Kitchen's traditional Christmas meal on December 25, 2011.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated to help support the CCRM's Christmas program, Friendly Kitchen, or help with costs associated with fixing the sewer line. Checks can be made out to Chautauqua County Rural Ministry or Friendly Kitchen and can be mailed to:

Chautauqua County Rural Ministry
127 Central Avenue
P.O. Box 362
Dunkirk, NY 14048

Donations can be dropped off at the CCRM, located on 127 Central Ave. in Dunkirk, which is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and the Friendly Kitchen is open until 6 p.m.

For more information on ways you can help to donate items, money or your time to aid CCRM during this crisis, please call (716) 366-1787.

If you would like to make a donation but are unable to reach the Dunkirk area, please contact the County Executive's Office at (716) 753-4211.

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