

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Neenah-Menasha
Emergency Society
A local need. Answered.



P.O. Box 744
Neenah, WI
54957-0744



nmesociety.org



nmesociety@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENTS

We are pleased to provide you with this year's Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society annual report. This report highlights the many contributions our team of dedicated volunteer members have made this past year in support of our mission. We are proud of the impact we have had in our community.

The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society has been serving the community for over 116 years. Wow! Our ability to quickly respond to requests allowed us to serve 2,774 people this past year. We had a third consecutive year of record attendance at our Back-to-School-Fair. This program got students prepared for the new school year by providing backpacks, school supplies, and a shoe voucher. Our Caring for Kids Program helped students throughout the school year by purchasing items such as winter coats and boots, undergarments, and hygiene products. In addition to helping students, our Emergency Assistance program helped families remain in their homes by providing rental assistance, utility assistance, and even assisting with car repairs on occasion. Also, this past year, we donated \$15,000 to Habitat for Humanity for the purchase of a lot for a future home. Other community-based programs in which we are involved include Meals-on-Wheels and the Fox Valley Community Table.

The 15th annual Kitchen Tour was again a huge success! Our communities continue to show their enthusiasm for this event by attracting participants from all over the Fox Valley. We are grateful for the generosity of our attendees, volunteers, sponsors, and demonstrators who are integral to the success of this event. The Inspiration Room, now in its second year, was highly successful with the addition of a Dip Jar for donations. This event annually contributes over half of our budget and last year was no exception.

Through our generous donors and the Kitchen Tour fundraising event, we can continue our mission of providing emergency resources to support residents of Neenah and Menasha who cannot provide for their core needs. This is especially important in this time of ever rising costs. We rely on your generosity and support for today and for our future.

Sue Larson and Kris Rankin, Co-Presidents

MISSION

The mission of the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society is to provide emergency resources to support residents of the Neenah-Menasha area who are unable to provide for their core needs.



Donate here:



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The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society is a 501(c)3 organization, making your donation tax-deductible.

CARING FOR KIDS

The NMES Caring for Kids program provides essential services and support for many children and their families within the Neenah and Menasha school districts. We are here to support requests from school principals, social workers, counselors and teachers. We provide support to 31 schools, from elementary through high school, both private and public.

Thanks to the generous donations and support of the community, NMES was able to provide 67 winter coats, 90 pairs of winter boots, 75 pairs of snow pants and countless numbers of hats and mittens. A total of 135 people were helped with winter clothes this winter.

In addition to winter gear, the program provides ongoing supplies to the schools by providing items such as snacks, shoes, hygiene products, school supplies, and clothes such as pajamas, undergarments, pants, and sweatshirts. This year over 330 students were assisted with these basic items.



CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

NMES values the work of other organizations in the Neenah-Menasha area that help residents with basic needs such as housing and food insecurity. One way we support these other organizations is by coming alongside them and providing funding and/or volunteers when our missions align.

The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society proudly supports the Fox Valley Community Table and its efforts to help those in our area who are struggling with food insecurity. These meals are provided to the public free of charge and are served in the lower level of St. Paul's church in Neenah twice per week. This year saw a 42% increase from last year, with NMES serving a total of 361 meals over five different dates.

In addition to providing meals at the Community Table, NMES members each participate in the Valley VNA Senior Care Meals on Wheels program. Each member drives a route once or twice per month to anywhere from 2-8 residences in our area, bringing a hot, dietary-conscious, lunchtime meal to approximately 71 clients.

TESTIMONIALS

“I want to thank you so much for providing the money to replace the mirror on my 2005 Camry [which] was damaged in a hit and run. I feel so much safer now that the mirror is back on!” – N.M.



“I am so grateful for everything you and everyone else have done for us. I truly do not know how to thank you. This is truly a blessing!! I really appreciate all the help!! Thank you!” – M.L.



“Thank you so much for helping me and my mother during this difficult time with your gas cards. There’s a lot that has come with losing our home which has led to us having to travel a lot between her going to work, me going to school and work, and we have to check up on family friends that are looking after our pets. The gas cards have helped us in so many ways and you forever have my gratitude.” – I.V.



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CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

KITCHEN TOUR 2024

Our 15th Annual Kitchen Tour, sponsored by Nicolet National Bank, was held on April 25 just north and west of Neenah and Menasha. We are so grateful to the homeowners, sponsors, demonstrators, and prize donors who helped us provide an amazing experience for over 850 guests and helped us raise over one-half of our annual program budget in just one day. Without you, all of the wonderful work we do would not be possible!

This year, we added a fun component to our Inspiration Room to help our attendees know more about all NMES does in our community. With our DipJar and little houses we were able to increase our day-of donations by several thousand dollars. In these days of increased costs across the board, these donations are so appreciated, and allow us to assist more students and families than we ever have before.

As exciting and fun as this year's tour was, our planning committee doesn't get much time to bask in the success of the day, and they are already hard at work planning next year's event. Because of the NFL draft happening at the end of April in Green Bay, we have decided to push the Kitchen Tour back into May. Be sure to join us on **Thursday, May 1, 2025, for our 16th Annual Kitchen Tour.** As always, it is sure to be an inspiring and entertaining day. Check our website and Facebook page often for more information!

KITCHEN TOUR 2024



BY THE NUMBERS

135
students served

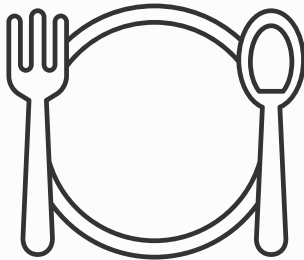


CARING FOR KIDS: KEEPING KIDS WARM



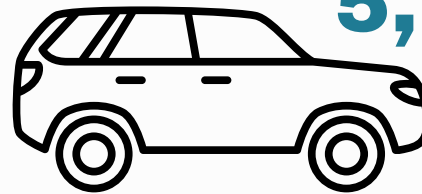
2,047
backpacks distributed

BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR



361
meals served

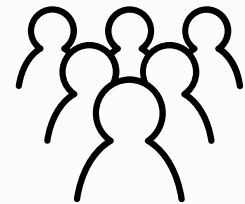
COMMUNITY TABLE



5,999
meals delivered

MEALS ON WHEELS

NMES **2,774**
individuals helped by
our programs



1,108
ROGAN'S SHOES
certificates redeemed



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BACK-TO- SCHOOL FAIR

The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society hosted our 17th Annual Back to School Fair on August 9th, 2023. Thanks to the generous support of our donors and volunteers, NMES packed approximately 2,100 backpacks for students in grades Pre-K through 12.

This is another 20% increase over 2022, which was a 100% increase over 2021! In addition to a backpack filled with supplies, our students also receive a voucher for a free pair of shoes at local Rogan's stores. The need for this crucial event continues to grow, and by the time this annual report reaches your mailbox, we will have packed backpacks for over 2,300 students for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. To ensure our students get the most useful items and to keep our costs down, we continually work with teachers & administrators to provide items our students actually need. As a result, in 2023, in addition to the 2,100 backpacks we provided to individual students, we also provided the Neenah Educators Closet with calculators, student planners, and additional backpacks & supplies so we could meet more needs throughout the year.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR



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SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Scholarship program has been established to help launch students graduating from Neenah and Menasha high schools on to the next steps in their education journey. The scholarship is awarded to one student from each school through an application process that includes a recommendation from the school's counselors and advisors. The purpose of this scholarship is to meet the students where they are and interrupt poverty by providing a non-traditional or traditional opportunity for education such as a certificate or degree from a technical college or university. NMES will provide up to \$2500.00 for tuition per student for up to two years. Last year we were able to provide this opportunity for a student that began at a two-year college and moved on to a four year university. The student is finding success and will therefore be prepared to enter the workforce with a valuable degree and skill set. As the landscape of higher education continues to change, specifically with the upcoming closure of UW-Oshkosh's Fox Valley campus, we continue to work on processes that best fit these changes and secure communication with the high schools in order to connect the qualified student with our program.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Together we are strong and are able to connect with more people who find themselves in need for different reasons. Thank you for supporting the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society. Your dollars make an impact on individuals and families throughout the Neenah-Menasha communities. For more information on NMES, including a complete list of donors and sponsors, visit our website at nmesociety.org. Stay connected by following us on Facebook or by signing up for our newsletter by emailing us at nmesociety@gmail.com.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Emergency financial assistance is one of the original core programs of the Neenah–Menasha Emergency Society. While the needs of our community fluctuate from year to year, this past year NMES has seen the highest number of requests on record, with the amount spent on emergency funding increasing by over 200%. This has largely been driven by the shortage of affordable housing and families having to enter into lease agreements that are beyond their means. In each of the years from 2019 – 2022, our average payment for past due rent was just under \$600 per family. However, in 2023– 2024 our average payment jumped to just over \$2,000 per family! In addition to our rent/mortgage assistance, NMES, as part of the Affordable Housing Task Force, donated \$15,000 to Habitat for Humanity towards the purchase of a lot in Neenah.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)

In addition to financial assistance for housing, we also jump in to assist with transportation through bus passes or car repairs, utility assistance, and even medication and childcare for those awaiting aid from other sources. Our hope is that when an emergency situation arises, our assistance with housing and other basic daily needs will provide each client the support they need to make the best decisions for themselves and their families and be set up for future success.



FOLLOW 



Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to see us out and about in the community, learn about our events and programs, and find ways for you and your family to get involved!



NMES MEMBERS

Sue Larson, Co-President
Kris Rankin, Co-President
Kaye Krueger, Vice President
Anastasia Horan, Treasurer
Betsy Wilson, Secretary

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Pat Bowen
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Deb Matheny
Laura McClone
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Holly Muggenthaler
Marcia Nicholson
Christine Rondeau
Royal Rondeau
Casey Sullivan
Chris Wilharm

THANK YOU

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO ALL NEENAH-MENASHA EMERGENCY SOCIETY DONORS FROM JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024. ALTHOUGH NOT LISTED INDIVIDUALLY, WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR ALL KITCHEN TOUR PARTICIPANTS, HOMEOWNERS, DEMONSTRATORS, AND RAFFLE BASKET DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROSITY.

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Paul Wolters

Yoga Elements

Your Cause (4)

Memorial and Tribute Gifts

In honor of Chris and Kristen Bergstrom

Anonymous

Laura & Robert Abernathy

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