

New Hampshire Circle Of Home And Family Andover Service Club News

By Judy Perreault

NH Circle of Home & Family

On October 24 a group of ladies met for lunch at the home of Judy Perreault to organize an Andover group of New Hampshire Circle of Home and Family. NHCHF's mission is to enrich the lives of home and family through knowledge, skills, leadership, and self-esteem.

The group decided that they would meet for lunch monthly (except July and August) on the third Monday of the month at 12:30. Members will bring a sandwich to share and the hostess will provide the dessert and beverage. A tentative program schedule for the year 2006 has been set up.

- January – Soups
- February – New Hampshire Women March (county mtg.) – Identity Theft
- April – Germany
- May – Container Gardening
- June – Mushrooms
- September – Tea
- October – Program Planning
- November – Craft Meeting
- December – Christmas Party and Christmas Carol Program

The meetings will be in various homes which will be announced. The programs were developed by New Hampshire Home and Family and will be led by Judy Perreault and other members.

A meeting is scheduled for December 5 at 12:30 PM at the home of Judy Perreault. She will be showing a slide program about some of NHCHF's outreach work. If you are interested in attending any of these meetings, plan to bring a sandwich and call Judy at 735-5493.

NHCHF is also a member of the Associated Country Women of the World, the largest international organization for rural women. ACWW involves nations that share information and work together for the good of developing countries. For more information about ACWW, visit ACWW.org.uk.

Donate!

The *Beacon* relies on voluntary donations for a substantial part of its budget.

By Sara Tracy-Arone
President, Andover Service Club

The Andover Service Club is reaching out to our New Hampshire neighbors in Alstead with a commitment to collect new blankets of all sizes and types. Flooding in October destroyed 36 homes in Alstead and damaged many more.

Even closer to home, the Service Club is also collecting canned goods for the food bank in Franklin.

You can bring your donations to the Andover Service Club Thrift Shop or to the DK Motel in West Franklin. Please do not leave donations outside the shop or motel.

Is anyone else willing to be a drop-off spot for blankets? Any other organizations willing to help should contact Sara Tracy-Arone at 735-5272.

We hope to have a cash donation to Alstead approved by Service Club members in December. We are also accepting outside donations to be added to our contribution.

Please bring a new blanket and some canned goods to the Town Good Tidings Tree Lighting on November 27 at 5 PM so our neighbors can enjoy a warm and happy holiday this year. Gather in the lobby at AE/MS and support the Girls Scouts of Andover. Sing your way into the ASC Thrift Shop and admire

the Poster Contest artwork drawn by our young Andover artists.

Thanksgiving Pie Sale

By Lois Magenau

Members of the Andover Service Club contributed their time and ingredients to make homemade pies for our Thanksgiving fund raiser. We delivered 77 pies to the Foodstop in Cilleyville which generously provided space for us to sell our pies. Thank you to everyone who helped us sell a total of 103 pies, making our Pie Sale a great success again this year.

Thrift Shop

By Gisela Darling

Thrift Shop Co-Chairs Judy Evans and Gisela Darling hosted an Open House on Saturday, October 29. Everyone enjoyed apple cider and refreshments made by the members of the Andover Service Club. Katherine Darling won the door prize, a beautiful basket filled with Christmas season items.

The Andover Thrift Shop is ready for the Fall and Winter seasons with many "new" items. We have a large assortment of good quality clothing for children and infants. Our regular hours are Tuesday and Saturday from 10 AM to 2 PM, Wednesday from 3 PM to 7 PM, and Thursday from 10 AM to 4 PM. The Thrift Shop will be closed on Saturday, December 24.

Should Andover Open A Food Pantry?

By Heather Makechnie
For the *Beacon*

During the October 8 Lions Club yard sale, a conversation ensued among Bill and Mev Matulevich, Heather Makechnie, and Lions Club President Bill Egge.

"Why," we wondered, "doesn't Andover have its own food pantry?"

One of the reasons Bill had approached the Lions Club was to help organize a fund raiser to provide available dollars for food to go to families or individuals that might find the winter months a real struggle due to high fuel costs.

The Lions Club did raise \$1,800 to support the many wonderful things they do for the community, food baskets being one of them.

The food pantry question came from those concerns. After some casual discussion no one was able to answer the "why" question. Mev and Heather decided to research the idea by conducting a survey of existing resources in surrounding communities.

They found that virtually every community *except* Andover has one or more food pantries, and that needy Andover residents patronize almost every one of those facilities. Conversations with pastors, ministers, government officials, and service organization leaders revealed the following:

1. Some people, unfortunately, abuse charitable aid. It is often better to have that aid distributed by agencies that can monitor the frequency and amount of aid given. Most officials interviewed felt more comfortable referring those needing groceries to one of the agencies.

2. It takes a lot of donations, a lot of heated space to store groceries, and a great number of dedicated volunteers to run a food pantry.

3. People who need help are often shy to ask for it where they might be recognized. People feel more comfortable going to a pantry outside their own community. A food pantry in Andover would likely be serving people from other communities, as Andover residents now are served by organizations and agencies in neighboring towns.

Why should Andover be the only town not serving the hungry and needy? After all, it could easily be any one of us that hits a hard stretch and needs help putting food on the table.

So now that the question has been put to the community itself for discussion, we hope you will send your thoughts and suggestions to the *Beacon* at Letters@AndoverBeacon.com or PO Box 149, Andover 03216. Or you can air your views on the town's Web log (or "blog") at AndoverNHUS.BlogSpot.com.

Senior Luncheon

All area seniors are invited to the Wilmot Community Association Building for a holiday luncheon at noon on Tuesday, December 20. There will be a special holiday menu, and The A Capella Singers from Kearsarge Regional High School will provide holiday entertainment.

Reservations are required. Please contact Kate McKibbin at mckibbin@adelphia.net or 526-4540 before December 15.

Andover Service Club Thrift Shop

Fall and winter clothing for the whole family

We are located behind the Andover Town Hall and welcome your donations, your consignments, and you!

Our Hours

Tuesday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday 3 - 7 p.m.
Thursday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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LADIES - The Andover Service Club Needs You!

- Do you enjoy making friends?
- using your talents?
- helping your community?

Whether you're single or married, working or retired...

Become a Member of the Andover Service Club

For more information, call the ASC President at 735-5738 or the Membership Chair at 735-5349 or rfgs@tds.net.