

CHALMERS' BENEVOLENT FUND PROGRAM

We need your help now!

Despite the Pandemic, the Program remains incredibly active with 1,543 people in our database and 836 assisted in 2021, requiring an increased financial outlay. There has been almost a six-fold financial increase since we started in 2010 with triple the number of people we assist! The Benevolent Fund team continues to help those who fall between the gaps of 'the system'.

BENEVOLENCE SHARED ANNUALLY WITH THOSE IN NEED			
Year	People Assisted	Annual Outlay	Donations received
2021	836	\$19,596	\$12,905
2020	688	\$ 14,796	\$15,875
2019	786	\$19,372	\$15,421
2018	852	\$ 15,061	\$ 14,325
2015	687	\$ 10,041	\$ 13,691
2010	291	\$ 3,370	\$ 3,367

When the pandemic began, the demands immediately changed. Needs intensified and escalated. The team has responded accordingly, thinking the COVID situation would last a few months, NOT YEARS! As a result, the program is faced with the threat of not being able to continue as it has in the past. Money is going out, faster than it is coming in. But people continue to come to Chalmers for help and the need continues to escalate.

We have been forced to reconsider how we help each individual and how do we move forward. To whom do we say 'no'; who do we turn away; and whose need is less than the next person?

Since we cannot have face to face conversations, during the pandemic and really get to know people, it has been almost impossible to develop new relationships with people coming to Chalmers, as we did before the pandemic started. As a result, we are reminding ourselves to use the basic premise of the program, which is to fill gaps and to give whenever there:

- are children are involved
- is an immediate crisis to be overcome
- is income so low, it leaves little to live on after the rent is paid or when someone is homeless

We all hear this line in the media, "please give generously" but this time it applies to our Chalmers Benevolent Fund program and the people in our community who need the help. It is our hope that with your donations we can help the people in our neighbourhood get through these cold winter months. If you've considered donating, but haven't done so, now would be the time.

We thank those of you who contribute regularly and have done so again recently. We still need small jars of peanut butter, crackers, pop up lid cans of tuna or salmon, ham, fruit cups for the Blessing Box.

As always, donations can be:

- mailed in to: 212 Barrie St. Kingston, Ontario, K7L 1A3
- or e-transferred to: envelopesecretary@chalmersunitedchurch.com specifically identifying the amount designated for the benevolent fund
- or an envelope dropped through the mail slot of the church house.

Thank you.

The Benevolent Fund Volunteer Team: Jan Trites, Gwen Duhn, Joan Simeon, Joan Hauser, Mary Davis Little, Isabel McLeod, Jane MacEwen, Heather Faris, Carol Sleeth (Admin)