



NANTUCKET TOWN ASSOCIATION OCTOBER MEETING

October 25, 2022, at 4:00 pm

Meeting held by Zoom conferencing

DRAFT MINUTES FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Attendance (Participants as noted by Zoom): Trish Bridier, Mary Anne Easley, Doris Hanna, Sarah Ann Miller, Gail Norton, Lee Saperstein, Bill Seay, Anne Terry, Henry Terry, Barbara von der Groeben, and Paula Williams.

Guests: Samantha Aguiar, Atheneum, Tom Dixon, Assistant Executive Director, Nantucket Food Fuel Rental Assistance.

Thanks to the Atheneum, Samantha Aguiar, for hosting the meeting. which was recorded and the link to YouTube is included here: https://youtu.be/-64p_phBcN8

I. Call the October 25, 2022, Nantucket Town Association October Meeting to Order.

President Henry Terry called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. He announced that the meeting is being recorded and those who could not attend are welcome to use the above link to watch the recording. He also announced that, to avoid conflicts with the Open Meeting Law, there would be no discussion of the Nantucket Town small area plan because members of that working group are in attendance at today's meeting and no agenda for it has been posted.

He announced also that the Nantucket Civic League will be holding a live forum to Meet the Candidates running for a seat on the Nantucket Select Board; it will be in the Community Room at the Public Safety Facility, 4 Fairgrounds Road, on Saturday, October 29th, at 1:30 pm.

II. Approval of minutes of the Meeting of September 27, 2022.

Henry Terry asked for approval of the minutes of the meeting of September 27, 2022; Trish Bridier moved approval of the minutes, Barbara von der Groeben seconded them, and the vote to approve was unanimous.

III. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer was unable to attend the meeting but reported, through Henry Terry, President, that there were no changes from last month and that the balance of \$3,943.50 remains. A motion to approve was made by Paula Williams, seconded by Trish Bridier, and approved unanimously.

IV. Old Business and V. New Business. Henry Terry said that he had no old nor new business and none was offered by members.

VI. Guest Speaker. Tom Dixon, Assistant Executive Director, Nantucket Food Fuel Rental Assistance.

Henry Terry introduced Tom Dixon who, he said, would tell us about the work of the Nantucket Food Fuel Rental Assistance program, NFFRA, <https://www.assistanantucket.org/about-us-1>. Tom Dixon began by saying that he has held a number of positions on Nantucket and was pleased, after completing a graduate degree, to hold the newly established position of Assistant Executive Director of NFFRA. The program belongs to the Interfaith Council of Nantucket, <https://nantucketinterfaithcouncil.org/>, and the Executive Director of NFFRA is Janis Carreiro. Among the programs of NFFRA are medical travel assistance, the Nantucket Food Pantry, fuel and utility assistance, and a rental assistance program. Physically, their offices are located at 2 Madaket Road with the pantry at 10 Washington Street. He said that their ability to assist people is hindered by their very limited space. They are looking to double the floor area of the pantry and are seeking a new space that can accommodate larger refrigerated food storage areas. In addition to the directors, there are several staff members, some of whom are new to the program. They are very dependent on volunteers and welcome offers of help; there is a sign-up form on their web page.

For his presentation, he shared his screen to project the Annual Report of NFFRA. It is attached to these minutes (NB: the attachment has a very few errors that came with transcription; they do not impact the content.). He went through the pages and detailed how many clients, and in which category, they had served last year. The numbers are up from past years and he expects that

they will go up again. Their limitation is in being able to handle food safely within their facility. The report showed, also, funding levels and the sources of their funding. They have had substantial support from on-Island businesses and enterprises. Because one of their funding sources is the Community Preservation Committee, which disburses publicly obtained funds, they are careful to fund only legal entities. They will not, for example, provide rental assistance for illegal residences. All applicants are carefully vetted, particularly if they have a longer-term continuing need. First-time food seekers are always provided with sustenance when they arrive. If they apply for a continuing benefit, then they must fill out an application.

Their major food source is the Greater Boston Food Bank; they get deliveries weekly or even more frequently from the Food Bank's Harwich depot. They hire a trucking service here on Nantucket that goes on the Cape and returns on the same day. Their drivers do the heavy lifting of moving supplies into the food pantry.

After this very thorough presentation, Tom Dixon offered to answer questions. Paula Williams asked how people apply and qualify for assistance, particularly from the Food Pantry. Applicants may walk in or telephone in advance and then will go through a check-in and in-take qualification process. One-time applicants are provided food without question. For home-bound applicants, they will deliver food. Mary Anne Easley asked if on-Island food purveyors provide food to the pantry. Yes, came the answer; local businesses have been wonderful. Fresh items are placed on a client-choice shelf, which provides variety beyond the 30-listed items that they get from the Greater Boston Food Pantry. The Edible Food Recovery Program provides unused food from local restaurants and that program is limited only by their refrigeration space. Paula Williams asked if there is a charge to clients for food. None, said Tom Dixon.

Lee Saperstein asked about the Palliative and Supportive Care of Nantucket, PASCON, who also provide medical travel assistance, particularly for cancer patients who need to travel off Island for their care, and whether or not NFFRA coordinates with them. Tom Dixon said that they have different slants with their clients needing to be below an earnings threshold to be eligible. They have a reimbursement committee that establishes the guidance for travel assistance. In closing, he said that they do need volunteers. Some qualifications are needed and training is provided for successful volunteer applicants. He ended by saying that he can be reached at tom@assistanceanantucket.org.

VII. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm by motion from Trish Bridier, seconded by Paula Williams, and approved unanimously.

***Next meeting is November 15, 2022, which is one week earlier than normal so as to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday week. It will be via Zoom unless a decision to hold an in-person meeting is made; more information will be forthcoming with the next agenda; if one uses Zoom, registration is available at the following address:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwrcOCsqj0iH9CoJCY4FXOdz-tHfyynBrX>.

Lee W. Saperstein, Secretary, saperste@mst.edu.

NFFRA

We rise by lifting others

-Robert Ingersoll



Nantucket Food Fuel Rental Assistance

Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2022

(July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

Dear Friends,

It is not possible for most of us to wake up on Nantucket and not immediately feel blessed to be able to enjoy one of creation's greatest gifts. This island abounds in wonders and great beauty. Our land brings forth an abundance of delicious crops, our sea offers a multitude of delights. There is so much for which we must be grateful.

And yet, in the midst of all of this plenty, there are many who do not reap the benefits. Far too many of our island's residents do not have access to adequate food or shelter, and during the winter months are unable to pay for fuel to heat their homes, if they are lucky enough to have reliable shelter in the first place. The clergy and leadership of Nantucket's many faith communities have come together as the Nantucket Interfaith Council -- which is the steward of the Nantucket Food, Fuel and Rental Assistance Program. Through the support of our faith communities, as well as many generous individuals and foundations, we are able to support those on our island who are in need.

We are especially grateful to the wonderful members of our staff, who organize our food pantry and make the NFFRA run efficiently, smoothly and fairly: Janis Carreiro, Jamie Dickinson, Yeshe Palmo, Tom Dixon and Ashley Elford. A special thank you to Kelly Steffen for the years of exceptional service to our Food Panty. We wish him the best on his future endeavors. Our island community is blessed by their efforts and dedication, and we are very grateful to them, and all who support this vital work.

Let us hope that through our efforts and generosity, every single person can wake up on Nantucket and feel lucky and blessed, sated and safe.

With blessing, Gary

Rabbi Gary M. Bretton-Granatoor. D.D.
President, Nantucket Interfaith Council Congregation
Shirat HaYam, Nantucket

Dear Readers,

As you browse through our Annual Impact Report please remember that behind every data point there is a real person, a real island family whose lives were impacted positively by the work of this organization. Most faced a period of stress and anxiety wondering if they were going to be able to feed themselves and their family, find or remain in secure rental housing, not lose basic utility services, or pay for travel to seek necessary medical treatment not available on island. Some wondered if they would even be able to continue to live on island due financial distress they were experiencing. The most vulnerable members of our community who are lower income wage earners many who can work only seasonally, seniors living on a low fixed income, and those who lose income due to illness and injury are especially impacted.

To the outside world our island is seen through the lens of magazines, Instagram posts, and movies, they create a sense that Nantucket is a fairy tale island awash in beauty and natural resources with an abundance of beaches, great restaurants, fun and entertainment. Our island certainly has all of those things, and we who live here, truly feel blessed to live in such a close-knit year round community. We appreciate that we can go about our lives in relative safety and enjoy natural beauty at every turn. However, every fairy tale has a darker side, a story of survival and coping with what seems like insurmountable challenges, especially for those whose incomes are not always sufficient for the cost of living here, specifically those who are seniors, sick, or injured and seasonally employed. We at NFFRA strive to help these neighbors overcome these issues with short term assistance when it is needed most.

To Our Neighbors in Need: Know that we are here to help you and strive to treat you in a caring and compassionate manner.

To Our Donors & Grantors: We cannot thank you enough for your support. There are many worthy causes where you can choose to give your dollars. We are grateful that you have chosen us. It is you who make our mission possible.

To Our Community: Thank you for all that you do to help us all year long via volunteering, organizing food drives, donating time and supplies, being great landlords who are understanding of the needs of our tenants when they need help.

To Our Visitors: You can help us make a difference in the lives of those who serve you when you are here; their lives may not be as easy when you are gone. Think of those folks who prepare your meals, cut your lawns, make your hotel beds, pick up your trash, fill your grocery bags, and do so much more. These workers sometimes struggle to pay for decent rental housing, are forced to live in shared housing situations, have periods of reduced or no employment and find it impossible to buy enough food to feed their families.

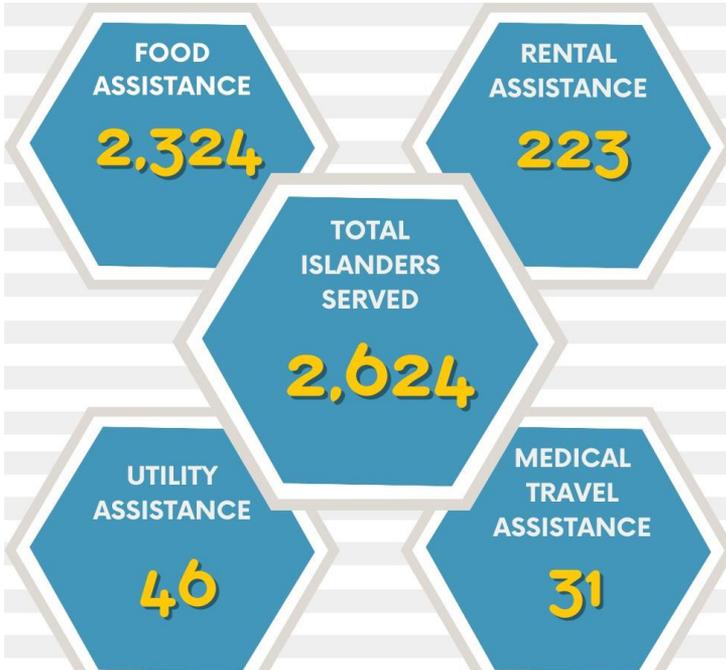
Finally, if you want to learn more about our organization and what we do, or if you have any suggestions as to how we can do better or move towards the future, please feel free to call or write. We are here to listen.

Janis Carneiro Executive Director

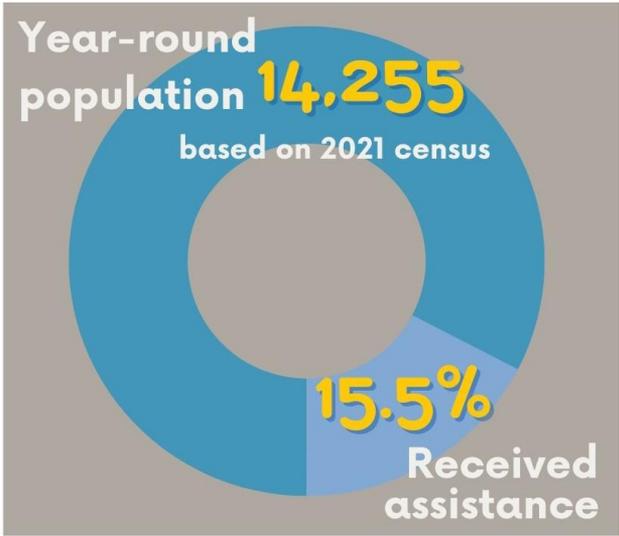
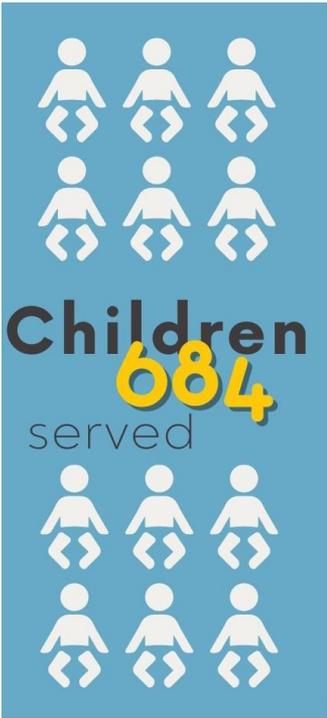
Year at a Glance FY22



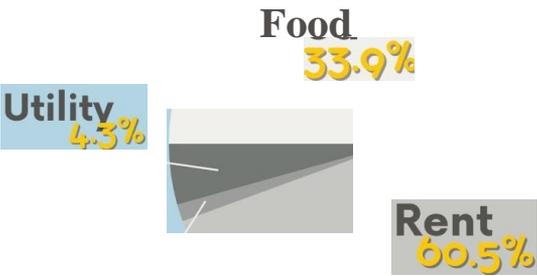
Number of islanders who received assistance



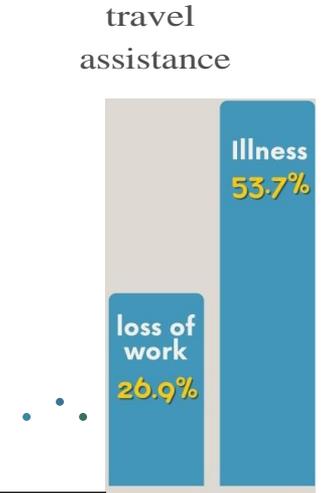
* amounts include some remaining one-time Covid donations and grants.



Percentage of expenditures and disbursements by program



Most common factors for client's need for rental, utility & medical travel assistance



Medical Travel
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\$25,260
raised by
monthly donors

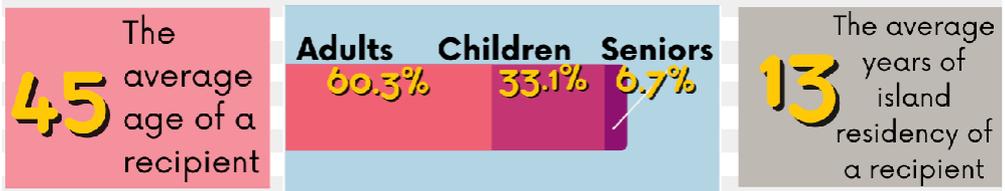
Seniors
J. %, ,

serve°d..J

RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Rental Assistance provides short-term financial assistance to help with payments for year-round rental units. Funds are based on financial need to avoid homelessness, eviction, or to move out of substandard or seasonal housing.

Five Year Comparison	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022
# of Households Assisted	49	56	274	218	110
Average Payout	\$3,216	\$3,809	\$2,135	\$2,793	\$1,152
Average Rent (all types)	\$1,402	\$1,498	\$1,353	\$1,835	\$1,838
Total Rental Assistance Paid	\$157,596	\$213,304	\$585,077	\$608,956	\$357,183
Percentage Increase	57%	46.70%	275%	4%	20% (from pre-Covid)



UTILITY

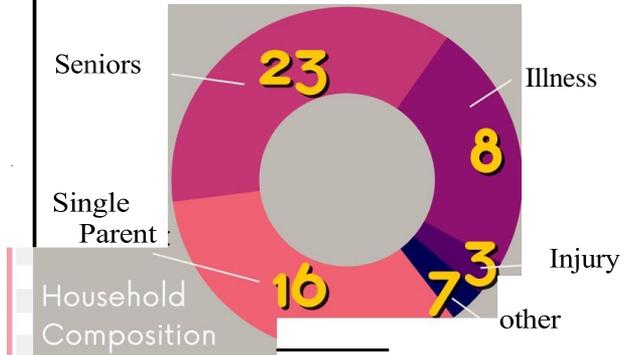
ASSISTANCE

Assistance provided by utility service

22

clients received aid through the Massachusetts Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and the Salvation Army

Donations & the William Hosier Trust grant provide funds to low to extremely low income households who need help avoiding service shut offs. This year emergency payments of **\$33,375** to **46** households.



Our Fuel Assistance Program started in 2014 by providing fuel assistance to islanders experiencing a financial crisis that results in the shut off of their heating utilities.

As this program evolved it was clear that if a client cannot pay their heating bill other basic services are past due as well. With this in mind, the program expanded to include water and electric utilities.

Now, we are able to assist a household with all of its primary essential services through our Utility Assistance Program.

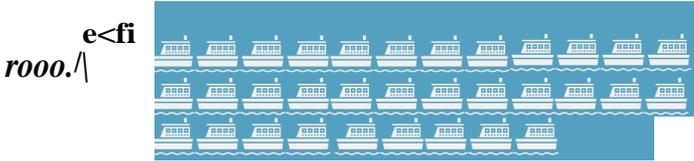
Water
Jj.!(i.)

Fuel
Electric

For our most vulnerable community members the expense of any medical diagnosis is a heavy financial burden and the additional cost of having to travel off-island may be a deterrent for seeking the care they need. The Medical Travel Assistance fund was created to defray the cost of medical travel costs so the patient can focus on their health.

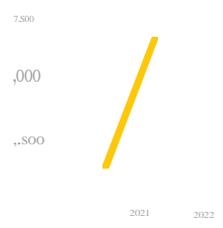
The Medical Travel Assistance serves low-income patients who meet the income and fund qualifications and who have a medical diagnosis which requires off island travel for treatment. Since its inception last year we have received **3 times** the applications for assistance which have resulted in a **302%** increase in disbursements. The sharp increase in just its first year shows that this program is critical to connecting islanders to their healthcare.

Most Used Modes of Transportation



islanders assisted

Disbursement by year



N pl .- , ., is the average annual income of islanders applying for medical travel assistance

due to loss of wages resulting from illness

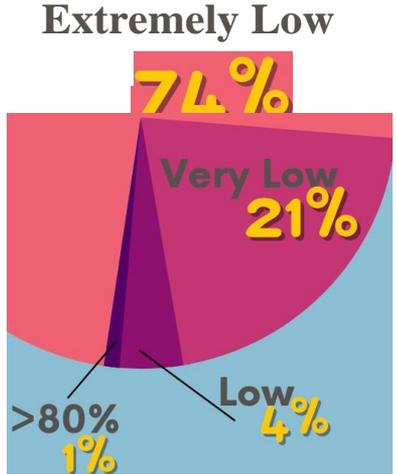
Food Pantry Households by Area Median Income Category.

Nantucket County's Area Median Income (AMI) is currently \$136,100*.

A majority of the households who receive food assistance are designated as Extremely Low income or 30% of AMI for example means that that a family of 4 makes \$111,100

or less a year.

*based on HUD's Income & Rents Limits Report dated April 18, 2022



200,000+

Meals provided to islanders through the Food Pantry

97 Seniors

615 Children

1,612 Adults

The Food Assistance Program serves low income Nantucket residents and those in need. Our Food Pantry remains committed to providing supplemental groceries and food staples to islanders who are not able to afford to feed themselves.

This year of the over **250,000 lbs.** of food that was distributed to clients **53%** were fresh veggies, fruits, meats, and dairy. Groceries were carried away in over **16,000** grocery bags.

CiRANTO

THE NANTUCKET FOUNDATION

THE NANTUCKET FOUNDATION
FOR EMERGENCY RELIEF

ACK SAVES

A GRASS ROOTS MOVEMENT BY ISLANDERS FOR ISLANDERS

United Way
Cape and Islands United Way

BANK OF AMERICA

The Greater Boston

FOOD BANK

IR FEEDING AMERICA



CAPE COD

Community Commitment

Nantucket Bank
A division of Rockland Trust



Hosier Trust

The Harriet. W. Backus Charitable Trust Tupancy

Harris Foundation

Town of Nantucket/

Nantucket Community Preservation Committee

Federal Emergency Food & Shelter Program

Nantucket Interfaith Council

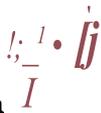
SUPPORT

Counting dollars is a necessity for those having to choose between what essential needs to pay for.

Thank you for making your dollars count.



of donations were between
\$250 - \$1,000

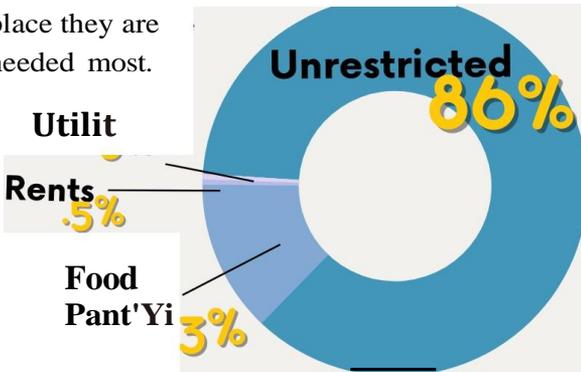


tribute donations made in honor,
behalf or in memory of someone.

making up 1/3 of all individual
donations

Donations by Program Restriction

Unrestricted donations allow us to put funds to work in the place they are needed most.



The Annual Appeal raises a significant portion of our program and operating funds for the year

Annual Appeal
67%

There were 1,200 monthly donors who contributed an average of \$10 per month

per month

Thank you!!!
To all of our wonderful volunteers
thank you for giving your time and
compassion to helping our
neighbors in need.



NANTUCKET FOOD•FUEL•RENTAL ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY • COMPASSION • CONFIDENTIALITY

SERVICES OF THE NANTUCKET INTERFAITH COUNCIL

www.assistnantucket.org

Contact Us

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