



Neenah-Menasha  
Emergency Society  
*A local need. Answered.*

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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# FROM THE PRESIDENTS

We are pleased to send you the Neenah–Menasha Emergency Society annual report. The summary highlights all the many accomplishments we have achieved this past year as we continue to bring our mission to life. Through many collaborations and a dedicated team of volunteer members, we have once again made an impact this year in the community.

The Kitchen Tour’s 14th year was a fantastic success once again. Our communities continue to show their excitement for this annual event by attracting participants from all over the Fox Valley and beyond. We appreciate the generosity of our attendees, volunteers, sponsors, and demonstrators that help continue to make this event successful and fun. It is our hope that the newly integrated inspiration room impassioned our guests by displaying stories and visuals of the essential programs that are supported with this community tradition.

The Neenah–Menasha Emergency Society has been serving our communities for more than 115 years. With a unique ability to respond quickly to requests, we were able to serve nearly 2,800 people this past year in their moment of need. This was demonstrated many times with a quick response to shoe and winter gear requests through our schools, rent requests through our partnerships preventing homelessness, and bus passes for children and adults during another season of ever-increasing costs.

Through generous donors and the Kitchen Tour fundraising event, we can continue our mission of providing emergency resources to support residents of the Neenah and Menasha communities who are unable to provide for their core needs. We rely on your generosity and support for a strong present and future.

We thank you!

Stephanie Emenecker and Julie Last, 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 Caring for Kids Committee continues to provide service and support for many children and their families within the Neenah and Menasha school districts. We serve a total of 33 elementary, middle, and high schools, including private schools. We are here to support the principals, guidance counselors, and teachers for all their requests. During the 2022/2023 school year, we provided winter gear, such as coats, boots, hats, and gloves for 211 children.

The need for winter gear has been greater in the past couple of years and, in collaboration with the community, NMES was able to cover these needs. We were even able to provide hats and scarves handmade by a local business's employees.

In addition to winter gear, we also provide ongoing supplies to the schools such as hygiene products, snacks, socks, undergarments, clothing, shoes, and school supplies. With a strong community, and generous donors, we were able to support 700 children this year. We are proud to be a part of providing a stable foundation of support for students and their families.



# CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Neenah and Menasha communities are blessed to have many organizations which serve the needs of our residents. NMES is proud to support our community by partnering with three non-profit agencies in our area that address food insecurity and affordable housing for young adults with mental health challenges.

Through the Fox Valley Community Table, an organization committed to feeding the hungry in our area, well-balanced, free meals are provided by various local organizations two days per week. **The Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society served five times this year, providing over 250 lunches** to Community Table guests with additional meals being provided to Youth Go.



# CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY (CONTINUED)

NMES also participates in Meals on Wheels, an NMES legacy program.

In 1966, NMES partnered with the Neenah-Menasha Visiting Nurse Association (now Valley VNA Senior Care) to help provide hot, nutritious lunches to the elderly and home-bound in our community. NMES financially subsidizes the cost of this meal program as needed to keep costs low for recipients, and NMES members are amongst the **120 community volunteers** that deliver these meals each month. **Over the past twelve months, 6,684 meals were served, averaging 38 clients per month and 28 meals per day**, thanks to these volunteer efforts.

Lastly, NMES continues to partner with Pillars to support their Ascend program participants. Ascend is a semi-independent life skills program that provides supportive services and independent living skills for young adults living with mental health challenges. This year 10 new tenants were each greeted with an NMES welcome basket containing bedding and bath linens and personal hygiene and laundry care items when they moved into their Ascend apartment.



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CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY



# KITCHEN TOUR 2023

The 2023 Kitchen Tour sponsored by Nicolet National Bank was another great success. Our 14th annual tour showcased five amazing homes on Doty Island and Neenah's Kimberly Point area.

Since the tour included the former home of Ernst and Carol Mahler, an additional stop at the Bergstrom-Mahler Museum of Glass, where some of the home's original glassware collection is held, was included. At each home, guests were treated to amazing appetizers, savory sips, or inspirational ideas while enjoying beautiful homes with friends and families. With nearly **900 attendees**, this one event provides approximately half of our annual funding.

Thank you to all our wonderful sponsors, homeowners, businesses providing tastings and demonstrations, raffle and door prize donors, attendees, and volunteers who make this an event to look forward to year after year.

**Join us next year for the 15th Annual Kitchen Tour on Thursday, April 25, 2024.** Check our website often for more information!



# KITCHEN TOUR 2023



# BY THE NUMBERS



**1,702**

backpacks distributed

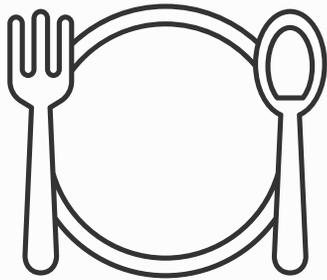
BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

**211**

students served



CARING FOR KIDS: KEEPING KIDS WARM



**254**

meals served

COMMUNITY TABLE



**6,684**

meals delivered

MEALS ON WHEELS

EMERGENCY  
ASSISTANCE

**85**

calls answered



**1,342**

ROGAN'S SHOES

certificates redeemed



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# BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR

Every August, we kick off our program year with our Back-to-School Fair. The Fair provides qualifying families in the Neenah and Menasha school districts with a backpack that contains school supplies which vary based upon the student's grade. In addition, we provide a Rogan's gift certificate for a free pair of shoes and gift certificates from Goodwill and St. Vincent DePaul. In 2022, the need for this program exploded from previous years. **We proudly distributed 1,702 backpacks to students, an increase of more than 100% from 2021!** In addition, 1,333 Rogan's gift certificates were redeemed. The Fair was held at Horace Mann Middle School in Neenah and again was executed as a drive through event. We are grateful to the cadre of volunteers who brought smiles to many faces throughout the day as backpacks were delivered to cars. As the increased demand indicates, this event is a much needed resource in the area that helps to ease the pressure of financial demands for families in need at the beginning of the school year.

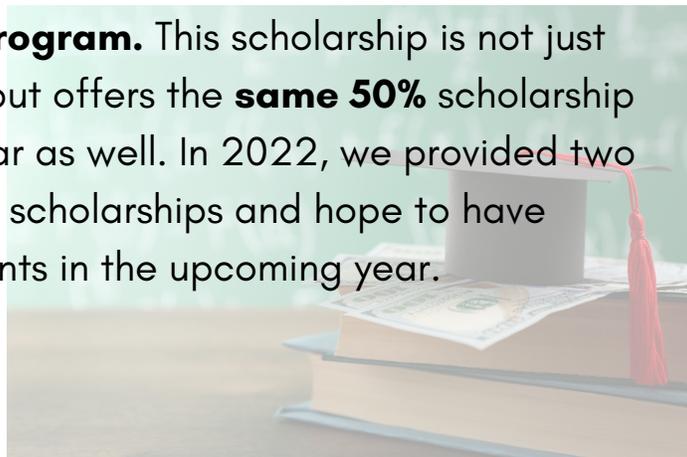
# BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR



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# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Post-secondary education, including trade and technical schools, can be a strong factor in obtaining financial security and interrupting the cycle of poverty. Yet, obtaining post-secondary training can be costly, causing families already experiencing hardship to take on debt with potentially high interest rates that impacts their financial security for decades. In 2019, NMES met with Neenah and Menasha high school counselors to learn how we could help students that may not qualify for traditional scholarships. These might include students whose grades suffered due to traumatic experiences, whose parents aren't willing or able to fill out the required FAFSA form, or students whose decision on whether to enroll in further schooling is dependent on factors unknown until late in the school year. NMES now offers a need-based scholarship for up to **50% of the cost of tuition and fees of a 2-year program**. This scholarship is not just for their first year, but offers the **same 50%** scholarship for their second year as well. In 2022, we provided two students with these scholarships and hope to have many more applicants in the upcoming year.



Stay Tuned & Follow us 



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](http://nmesociety.org). Stay connected by following us on Facebook or by signing up for our newsletter by emailing us at [nmesociety@gmail.com](mailto:nmesociety@gmail.com).



# EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Providing emergency assistance to families in their times of greatest need is at the core of what the Neenah-Menasha Emergency Society does and why we exist. Unfortunately, our community has not been immune to the affordable housing shortage crisis. Experiencing homelessness for students during Wisconsin winters is especially brutal. Our members believe strongly in helping people stay in their homes, and, when that is not possible, helping them find temporary housing until they are able to get something more permanent. To that end, in addition to our regular funding of security deposits, rent, and short-term housing stays, we also worked with First United Methodist Church in Neenah to **purchase a duplex** in Menasha that we donated to Pillars to add to their Affordable Housing program. This year two single parents and their children were able to have stable, affordable housing that was otherwise not available to them.



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# EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (CONTINUED)

In addition to housing, with the rising costs of used vehicles, we have seen an increase in the number of clients who owe a significant amount of money on a vehicle that is unsafe to drive. Because of the loan, buying a different vehicle is often not an option for them, and with work schedules that often differ from the times public transportation is available, the lack of a reliable vehicle is a threat to their ability to provide for their family. We are grateful to the local repair businesses, such as Ray's Transmission, that work with us to ensure we can help community members get back on their feet and back on the road quickly.



Pictured is a photo of NMES and First United Methodist Church receiving the "Community Partner of the Year" award from Pillars.



Pictured above is a photo of NMES and First United Methodist Church presenting the check needed for the duplex to Pillars in March 2022.

# NMES MEMBERS

Marianne Alexander  
Patricia Bowen  
Stephanie Emenecker  
Jess Fagan  
Diane Ferraro  
Amy Gaerthofner  
Jennifer Hein  
Alex Hittle  
Anastasia Horan  
Amanda Izquierdo  
Joellyn Key  
Christina Klinkhammer  
Lisa Komblevicz  
Kaye Krueger  
Amanda LaMarche  
Sue Larson  
Julie Last  
Sunhi Lundeen  
Stacey Manteufel  
Leslie Mayer  
Deb Matheny  
Nicole Mertes  
Emily Montalbano  
Holly Muggenthaler  
Marcia Nicolson  
Kris Rankin  
Christine Rondeau  
Royal Rondeau  
Casey Sullivan  
Chris Wilharm  
Betsy Wilson  
Nikki Wieniecki

## THANK YOU

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO ALL NEENAH-MENASHA EMERGENCY SOCIETY'S DONORS FROM JULY 2021 TO JUNE 2022. 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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IN MEMORY OF JUDY EARL  
ANONYMOUS  
IN MEMORY OF CAROL DUNLAP  
MIKE AND KAREN DISMER  
IN MEMORY OF CAROL HOUSTON  
MIKE AND KAREN DISMER  
IN MEMORY OF DENNIS POTTER AND  
DENNIS PEDERSEN  
ALBERT AND JANICE EXENBERGER  
IN HONOR OF MICHEAL SCHERMERHORN  
BARBARA BROWN  
IN MEMORY OF CHARLES SCHUELER  
EDWINA SCHUELER

\* FUNDS HELD WITHIN THE COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION FOR THE FOX VALLEY REGION

^ FUNDS HELD WITHIN A FIDELITY  
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