



SWEMming Along

Churches and Neighbors feeding Southwest Rochester and Monroe County

in the name of Christ

Spring/Summer 2020

SWEM Board:

Pam Bakst, President

David Morse, Treasurer

Jody LaRose, Secretary

Tim Speares

Karen D'Agostino

Doris Meadows

John Laing

Linda Stundtner, Office Manager

SWEM announces the retirement of Karen Woodward, our Office Manager of over 20 years!

Karen has been the “constant” at the SWEM office for over 20 years—taking the HelpLine calls from folks requesting food assistance, supporting the Board, interacting with Foodlink, and a myriad of varying tasks. We thank Karen for her great dedication and commitment to the SWEM ministry. She will continue to help with the senior program and other volunteer work.

We also want to thank Mary Alice Gillette and Nancy Kohlmeier who are retiring after many years as HelpLine phoners.

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SWEM COMMUNITY
SERVICES, INC.
350 CHILI AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NY 14611

ZipCodes we serve:

14428, 14514, 14546, 14559, 14606, 14608, 14611, 14614, 14619,
14624

The Help Number for clients: 585-235-4491

Phone:

(585) 235-4494

Email:

Swem.services1@gmail.com

Meet Linda! Our new Office Manager!

She brings a wealth of knowledge of computers and software, organizational talent, and customer service. We'd offer people to come by and say hello, but it's still time to stay safe and stay home.



Blessing Bags

Perhaps you have seen the person with the “need food” sign by the road or seen the person outside your church parking lot requesting food. What do you do?

Well, SWEM has created the BLESSING BAG. It is a gallon size plastic bag containing food items that can be used immediately without the need for cooking or a can opener. Items could include a juice, fruit bar, crackers, a fruit cup and a flyer with information as to where to obtain assistance. The blessing bag is intended to meet only an immediate need until further resources are available.

Contact the office if you need a bag or two to distribute!

If you or your organization is interested in supporting this outreach program, please contact the SWEM office.

Consider This: **Despite Covid 19, Great Volunteer Opportunities**

Senior Program Packers. On the 3rd Friday of each month, volunteers pack the grocery bags that are delivered to the senior clients the next morning. Packing is done at the SWEM food cupboard at Montgomery Neighborhood Center at 10 Cady St. in the city near Ford Street. Packing starts at about 9:30 AM and lasts about 2 hours. There is a coordinator who directs the packing.

Large food order handlers. Several times a month, orders of food are obtained from Foodlink, Aldi's or other stores. These volunteers may need to move several cartons of food, bulky banana boxes, and heavy bags of rice. We would like to find some relatively strong volunteers to help with this task. Times can be arranged, but need to be during the weekday to access Foodlink.

Many of SWEM volunteers have been doing these jobs for many years and would love to have help from some younger, stronger folks. If you have some time to share in trying to combat hunger in our community, come join us. Contact the office at 235-4494.

And Liaisons Needed!

But we desperately need someone from each church and organization to act as a liaison with SWEM and their church/organization. We foresee a commitment of attending a meeting twice a year and providing information about events or needs to your respective groups.



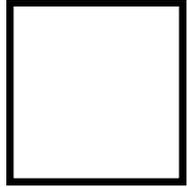
Christmas Baskets 2019



Although Christmas 2019 seems like a distant event in a different time, we want to thank all of the contributors and volunteers who helped provide holiday dinner baskets for 217 households. 317 children and 317 adults had a happier Christmas because of you.



SWEM COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.
350 CHILI AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NY 14611



Treasurers Report

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14559, 14514,
14546, 14428

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585-235-4491**

If anyone needs a charitable deduction letter from us or has not received a thank you letter, please contact me at: DLMorse56@gmail.com and I will do the letter.

As always, I and the Board thank you for your continued support and dedication to SWEM. As a small, volunteer organization, we rely on your time and treasure to keep the food rolling in for distribution. In this time of many worthy organizations requesting donations, we appreciate and thank you for any amount of funding you can provide, either directly or through your church or social organization. The pandemic caused cancellation of Scouting for Food, Lenten food drives, and regular church food collections that SWEM relies on to keep the cupboard stocked.

As an aside, We use Quickbooks to keep track of donations and expenses. For the first time, the letter merge capability glitched on me causing a delay in getting thank you letters out. Problem solved, but not without a lot of hair pulling– even in lock down!

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If you would like to receive Swemming Along by email, please notify the office.

The cupboard is getting bare!

**SWEM:
South
West
Ecumenical
Ministries**

(585) 235-4494

