

STONEBRIDGE WOMEN'S CLUB

February 1, 2021



“The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers.” ~ Terri Guillemets

The Women’s Club has been active through its philanthropic and humanitarian endeavors during the pandemic. Since the beginning of our new membership year in June 2020, charitable organizations received \$29,919 through our fundraising efforts and \$2,550 through direct donations, much of which was in response to hardships created by the pandemic. This has been the direction our Women’s Club has taken during our separation, and we appreciate your overwhelming response to these ventures. We also wish to share with you other service opportunities that are available.

- 1) **Ronald McDonald House Restaurant Meals**: Although the *Caring Cooks of Stonebridge* program remains suspended, the Ronald McDonald House continues to provide respite services to families of chronically-ill children. The Women’s Club has been supportive of the work of our *Caring Cooks* with previous contributions and has responded to their recent request for donations in the form of prepared meals from restaurants. If you are interested in making an individual donation of a **restaurant-prepared** meal, contact the New Brunswick Ronald McDonald House at (732) 249-1222 to make arrangements.
- 2) **Women’s Club Food Drive**: A Women’s Club food drive is being planned for March 15 and 16 to benefit clients of NJRise Food Pantry. Please watch for flyers detailing how food donations may be made.
- 3) **NJRise Tutorial Videos and CPA Services**: For its dauntless efforts in support of those currently struggling, NJRise Community Services has been recognized by Governor Phil Murphy and received Channel 2 media coverage. NJRise informed us that they are in need of volunteers to create short tutorial videos showcasing projects and special talents. The subject of these videos can include, but not be limited to, career opportunities, arts and crafts, drawing, knitting, recipes and wellness. Additionally, they are seeking Certified Public Accountants to donate their professional services through telephone contacts during the tax season. If you are interested in creating a tutorial or furnishing accounting advice, contact Valerie Benites, Program and Volunteer Coordinator, at vbenites@njrise.org.
- 4) **ShopRite Holiday Promotion**: Another way to help our food insecure neighbors is through the ShopRite Holiday Promotion. Customers who spend \$400 or more within a specified period of time during the Passover/Easter holiday season qualify for a free food item, i.e. a turkey or ham. Anyone wishing to donate their free food item to the NJRise Food Pantry after accumulating \$400 in purchases may visit the ShopRite Customer Service Desk for their donation to be recorded.
- 5) **NJRise Food Pantry, Thrift Store and Special Events**: At a time in the future when it is secure, NJRise offers other initiatives for those interested in contributing their time and energy. These include assisting at their food pantry, thrift store, and with seasonal and special events. Visit their website at www.njrise.org to sign up through the “Volunteer” tab.
- 6) **Other Women’s Club Volunteer Opportunities**: The “Get Involved” section of the Women’s Club website at www.stonebridgewomensclub.com highlights numerous volunteerism roles to consider once the world safely “re-opens.”

When the appeal is made, please consider giving the world a hug!

