

Needy

Continued from page 1

In Jamestown, people who need assistance often wonder, "Is there somewhere I can go where I can be anonymous?" she said. "In a small community, what should be confidential—or what could be anonymous—is not."

Rev. Kevin Lloyd, rector at St. Matthew's Church, said he has

also seen a significant increase in people needing assistance.

"There's definitely need in Jamestown," he said. "And always, depending on the circumstances or individuals, there's going to be some sense of embarrassment or shame."

Statistically, Jamestown's needy population doesn't seem overly large. Just 20 of the island's 441 public school students

receive free lunch, with an additional four students eligible for reduced lunch, according to the superintendent's office.

But such measurements often require individuals to reach out for help, and don't take into account families who might qualify, but don't apply.

"It's important for folks to know there are resources out there," said Lloyd. "The churches are a good starting point for many people."

At Central Baptist Church, monthly collections of food and toiletry items are taken and donated to Bridges Inc., which runs two group homes in Jamestown and maintains a food bank for residents associated with its programs.

Palen said the congregation also collects a monthly benevolence fund and that she maintains a pastor's "discretionary" fund. Those monies aren't earmarked only for church members, she said, adding that she has used them to help people pay utility bills and for groceries.

But, Palen said, reaching out for help from the church requires a plan.

"They can come and talk with me," she said, adding that she then determines if the church can be helpful and if the individual or family has a plan in place. The main question, she said, is "How are you not going to be in the same situation next month?"

Lloyd said that St. Matthew's Church also has a pastor's discretionary fund and that those monies provide some privacy to families and individuals in need. The church also takes various offerings, collects food for community organizations and runs a thrift shop twice a week that sells clothing, shoes and home items, among other things.

Additionally, Lloyd also oversees the Kit Wright fund, named for a long-time church member, which provides financial assistance to the people of Jamestown. The fund is in the care of all three of the town's churches—Central Baptist, St. Matthew's and St. Mark—and is designated specifically for Jamestown residents.

"We won't write a check to

Where to get help

Maggie Grenier, public assistance director: 423-0175

Central Baptist Church: 423-1651

St. Mark Church: 423-1421

St. Matthew's Church: 423-1762

Jamestown Medical Fund: www.jamestownmedicalfund.org

Anyone wishing to donate to these organizations should also get in touch.

"Your name was given to us as someone who could maybe use a Thanksgiving basket."

"Sometimes, they'll say, 'No thank you, we're fine' or 'Please give it to someone else who can use it,'" she said.

The important thing, according to Palen, is that people know that resources are available in times of need—and that there's no shame in reaching out.

"Beyond what our congregations can do, we can help people find other avenues of assistance," she said. "We can educate them, and be an advocate for them."

Lloyd agreed, adding, "We can't always provide what they want or need, but we can help connect them with other resources."

Maggie Grenier, general public assistance director for the town of Jamestown, said her job is to refer people to the right agencies. She has helped families get assistance with food and fuel costs, and has also referred individuals who need help paying for health care.

"In the last couple of years, I've heard from people that have never called me before," she said. "And last summer, we had homeless people living over at Ft. Getty. A lot of people don't realize this – they think Jamestown is affluent."

Grenier said she has also referred people who've become disabled because of a heart attack or other health issue, as well as those who've lost jobs or been laid off.

"I had a couple last year that asked for help," she said. "And they were so embarrassed to do it."

But needing help is no cause for shame, according to Grenier.

"It's your everyday person," she said. "It can happen to me. It can happen to you."

It's important for community members to look out for each other, Brownell said, adding that if you think a family might be in need, you can discreetly supply a name to the St. Mark Outreach Program and someone will call.

"Sometimes you get a vision in your mind of what somebody who's poor looks like," she said. "These people aren't poor. At different times in your life, you might need help. It may be you. It may be your neighbor."



Farewell gift

Jamestown Chamber of Commerce President Annie McIntyre presents a painting as a thank you gift to Donna Olney Kohler, who is leaving her post as executive director of the chamber. Kohler and her husband recently sold their bed & breakfast on Union Street and have moved away from the island.

CATHRYN JAMIESON SALON

16 NARRAGANSETT AVE
401-423-0905
www.CathrynJamiesonSalon.com



HAIRCOLOR THAT'S ESSENTIALLY DAMAGE FREE

Pure radiance. Reflective depth. Up to 99% naturally derived* and infused with a protective blend of oils – sunflower, castor and Jojoba – Aveda Full Spectrum™ hair color conditions as it adds amazing shine.

Get healthy-looking hair color. Call to book now.

*from plants and non-petroleum based minerals.



Loyalty and commitment to our community.

A centerpiece that brings everyone together.

Same day delivery to Jamestown and Aquidneck Island available

Delivery available 7 days a week.

Fruit Festival™
with Cinnamon Chocolate
Apple Wedges

Delicious Fruit Design™
with Chocolate Dipped
Apple Wedges



Edible
ARRANGEMENTS

10% Off On your next order

Place any holiday order before December 1st and receive a 10% discount on any pick-up or delivery between November 20th thru December 31st.

Excludes tax and delivery. Offer valid on select products. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Offer code must be used when placing this order.

Offer expires 11/30/09 • Code: EBSP2009

To order, please call or visit the location nearest you:

Warren	8 Turner St	401-289-2089
Providence	755 Westminster St	401-331-2390
Attleboro	679 Washington St	508-399-6111

EdibleArrangements.com

Copyright © 2009 Edible Arrangements, LLC

Franchises Available. Call 1-888-727-4258

dansko

FUN... BUT NOT SILLY

Women's Clothing, Clogs & Accessories

Ma Goetzinger's

2918 E. MAIN RD. PORTSMOUTH
683-9400

Page's Pampered Pets

Daily Fun Adventures

Socialization and Exercise
Full Service Weekends/Evenings
Fully Insured

Terri & Jim Page
Owners

9 Howland Avenue
Jamestown, Rhode Island 02835

ph: 401 423 3576 OR 401 265 3315
E-MAIL: pagespets@aol.com