

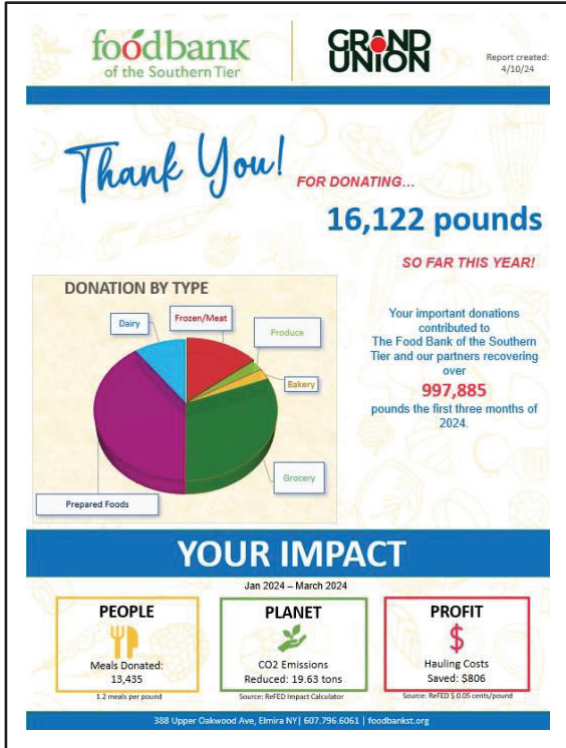


# Tioga County Rural Ministry

*A Hand In Deed, Serving the Need*

Newsletter • Spring 2024

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 Assistant Director -- Rachel Bond  
 Outreach Services Coordinator -- Galen Morehead  
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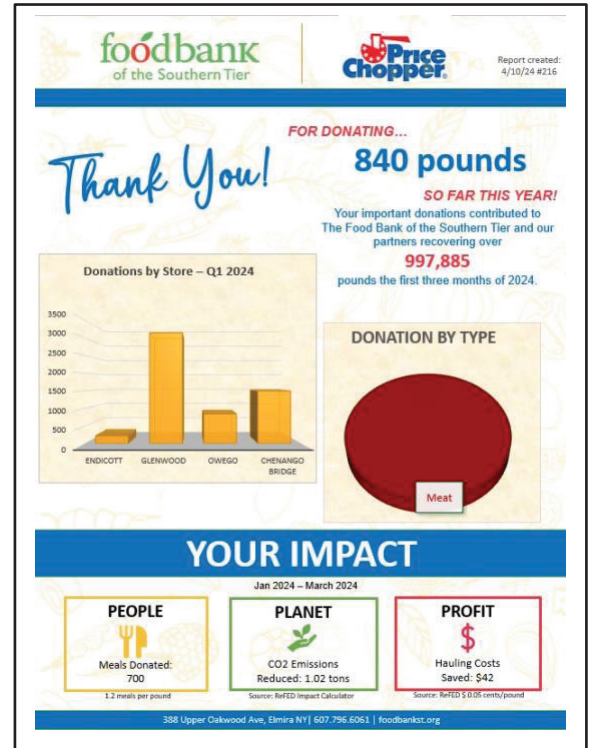


## Groceries aid TCRM mission

The generous food donations from Grand Union and Price Chopper significantly alleviate the ministry's food expenses and enhance the variety of foods available to our clients.

This partnership ensures that those we serve have access to a diverse range of nutritious options.

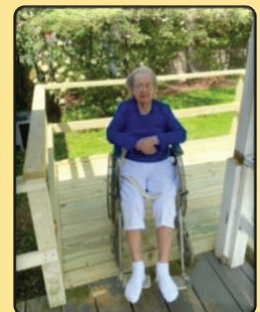
Collaborations such as these strengthen our community ties and extend our ability to serve those in need.



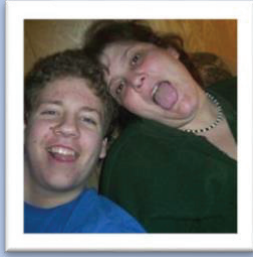
**Designer Purse Bingo 2024**  
 Fundraiser leaves 'em smiling



## Our ramp-building team has been busy!







## Persevering over poverty

By GALEN MOREHEAD

Outreach Services Coordinator

Addressing food insecurity in Tioga County isn't just a matter of charity. It's a fundamental obligation to ensure the well-being of everyone in our community.

I speak from personal experience, having grown up in a single-parent household where financial struggles were a daily reality. While we never went hungry, the meager assistance from SNAP benefits often left us scraping by, unable to afford basic necessities such as butter, eggs or milk.

My mother's disability meant she couldn't work, and the Social Security payments she received barely covered essential expenses such as rent and utilities. Unable to find stable housing, we moved frequently. In times of desperation, we turned to local churches for help, as there was no organization like Tioga County Rural Ministry in Chenango County.

Despite these challenges, I persevered, eventually finding my way to college. Today, I stand as a testament to the resilience that can be born of adversity. My journey from hardship to stability has imbued me with a deep sense of purpose, driving me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

As the Outreach Services Coordinator at TCRM, I am committed to leveraging my experiences to support families facing similar circumstances. At TCRM, our goal is to empower people to transcend the limitations imposed by poverty and reach their full potential.

## Rain can't dampen Spring Cleanup spirit

15 teams, 90-plus volunteers aid dozens of seniors



'We got wet, but we had fun.' 'What a great day!'



'Seeing the smiles on the homeowners' faces made it all worth it.'



'I've never gotten so filthy in my life, but it was so rewarding!'

## Donations were received from the following donors from December 16, 2023, through May 30, 2024:

Aaron & Stacey Riegel	Chris Peterson	Elaine Colangelo	Jerry Pettinato,	Louis & Mary Gelatt	Methodist Church	Susan Gray	Joan Wise-Hostetter's
Abby Chobot	Chris Pollock & Kerry Curran	Eleanor Erway	Mario's Pizza	Lowell & Diane VanVorce	Patricia Howe	Susan Teelin	Birthday
Adam Ace	Christina Dore	Elizabeth Carter	Jerry Ward	Patricia Knox	Patricia McCarthy	Suzanne & Kevin Mathers	Kathy Taylor
Ahwaga Paint & Coatings	Christopher Pawlak	Ellen Christopher	Jessica Barnes	Patricia Taylor	Patricia Gray	Suzanne Outman	Kelley Peron
AI & Florence	Emily Seymour	Eric & Joan Ludewig	Jim & Janice Hess	M. Thomas & Patricia Gray	Patrick MacKrell	Terril Dempski	Martha
Gillow	Eric & Joan Ludewig	Church World Services, Inc.	Jim Raftis	Madeline Barno	Peak	Terry & Rita Andres	Sauerbrey
AI & Jane Turshman	Clara Perrine	Cliff & Jo Ann Gray	Joan Davis	Marian Roueche	Performance	Terry Porter	Mary Fata's 80th Birthday
Albert & Barbara Winkeler	Clare Perrine	Cliff & Jo Ann Gray	JoAnn Gray	Marie Anne de Roos	Pete & Grace Sylvester	The Community Foundation for South Central NY	Pastor Carolyn and Pastor Bruce Gillette for Christmas
Albert & Dolores Wetterling Fund	Cliff & Jo Ann Gray	Clare Perrine	Joe & Cynthia Barnhart	Marie Anne de Roos	Peter & Sally Wovkulich	The Community Foundation of the Twin Tiers	Patricia Franz's 90th Birthday
Alicia Loso	Cline & Mary Stradley	Cliff & Jo Ann Gray	Joe & Fran Kobziewicz	Marie Anne de Roos	Peter Harvey	The Monday	Sally True
Alicia Vasilow	Colin Murphy	Cornelis & Jose Drost	Joe & Gloria Masters	Marie Anne de Roos	Petrina Meyers	Yoga Girls	Sheila Kraus
All Star Sports	Community Shop	Coughlin & Gerhart	Joe & Tami Fuller	Mary Ann Cascarino	Phyllis Whalen	Thomas & Sheila Dziak	S. Mary O'Brien, CSJ
Allan & Cheryl Bishop	Cornelis & Jose Drost	Gerhart	Joe & Teddi Fuller	Mary Carlson	Price Chopper	Thomas & Susan Mason	Sr. Sean Peters, CSJ
Amelia Edwards	Coughlin & Gerhart	Amelia Edwards	Joe Signs Power	Mary Disalvo	Rachel Bond	Thomas Babcock	TCRM's Dedicated Volunteers
Amy & Patricia Zamoiski	Amelia Edwards	Andrea Harding	Church	Mary Jo Jenkins	Rachel Robie	Thomas Cary	The True Family
Andrea Poluka	Andrea Harding	Andrea Poluka	Florence Zimmerman	Mary Louise Laidley	Rev. Olivia Armstrong	Thomas Vail & Nancy Smith	
Andrew Bonetti	Andrea Poluka	Angelo & Shirley Macchiano	Food Bank of the Southern Tier	Mary Ruth Begeal	Richard & Carol Harding	Tioga County Law Enforcement Association	
Angelo & Shirley Macchiano	Angelo & Shirley Macchiano	Anna Ficorelli	Damon & Emily Pazzagliani	Maryann Murphy	Richard & Carol Quest	Tioga State Bank	
Anna Ficorelli	Anna Ficorelli	Anne Moon	Daniel & Jody Summers	Maureen & Ken Hatlee	Richard & Patricia Woodruff	Tom & Meg Grant	
Anne Moon	Anne Moon	Anthony & Lisa Macek	Daniel Nickels	Michael & JoAnne Murphy	Rick & Constance Fineout	Tom Ash Agency	
Anthony & Lisa Macek	Anthony & Lisa Macek	April & Sean Villanti	Danielle Dougherty	Melissa Collins & Mark Trabucco	Rick & Helene Ballantyne	Tony Parise & Sally True	
April & Sean Villanti	April & Sean Villanti	Argarette Kirch	Dave & Cheri Andrews	Meredith Sagor	Rick Powell	Traci Potter	
Argarette Kirch	Argarette Kirch	Arnie & Anne Iles	Dave & Cheri Andrews	Merlin & Marcia Lessler	Robert & Carla Warner	TSB Foundation	
Arnie & Anne Iles	Arnie & Anne Iles	Avon Conklin	Dave & MaryAnn Albonesi	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Kris Stelmack	Tuesday Knitting Group	
Avon Conklin	Avon Conklin	Baking by Numbers	David & Janet Allen	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	United Way of the Southern Tier	
Baking by Numbers	Baking by Numbers	Barb Adams	David & Joan Oliver	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	United Way of Tompkins County	
Barb Adams	Barb Adams	Barb Neal & Sarah Davis	David & Joanne Risley	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Vaughn & Cynthia Blackwell	
Barb Neal & Sarah Davis	Barb Neal & Sarah Davis	Barbara & David Taggart	David & Kathleen Lapp	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Veronica Riley	
Barbara & David Taggart	Barbara & David Taggart	Barbara Beck	David & Naomi Rupright	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Village of Owego	
Barbara Beck	Barbara Beck	Barbara	David Franz & Family	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Clerk's Office	
Barbara	Barbara	Barbara Dunnigan	David Woodburn	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Virginia Jenkins	
Barbara Dunnigan	Barbara Dunnigan	Belva Lockwood Inn	Deacon Warren & Marion Rutan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Visions Federal Credit Union	
Belva Lockwood Inn	Belva Lockwood Inn	Benjamin Bates	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	W. Ray & Joann Rushing	
Benjamin Bates	Benjamin Bates	Bernadette Brown	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Wayne & Cheri Grenier	
Bernadette Brown	Bernadette Brown	Betty Wood	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Whittemore Hill Methodist Church	
Betty Wood	Betty Wood	Beverly Baker	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	Wilber & Rosanne Vermilya	
Beverly Baker	Beverly Baker	Beverly Foster	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison	William Motsko	
Beverly Foster	Beverly Foster	Bill & Gerry Mertson	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bill & Gerry Mertson	Bill & Gerry Mertson	Bill Wierman	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bill Wierman	Bill Wierman	Billie Taylor	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Billie Taylor	Billie Taylor	Blessed Trinity Parish	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Blessed Trinity Parish	Blessed Trinity Parish	Bob & Gail Liberty	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob & Gail Liberty	Bob & Gail Liberty	Bob & Jo-An Hagin	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob & Jo-An Hagin	Bob & Jo-An Hagin	Bob & Joyce Yanchus	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob & Joyce Yanchus	Bob & Joyce Yanchus	Bob & Marnee Pochily	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob & Marnee Pochily	Bob & Marnee Pochily	Bob & Michelle McLaren	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob & Michelle McLaren	Bob & Michelle McLaren	Bob & Teri Testa	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob & Teri Testa	Bob & Teri Testa	Bob Zendarski	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bob Zendarski	Bob Zendarski	Bonnie Morlando	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bonnie Morlando	Bonnie Morlando	Bonnielyn Jones	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Bonnielyn Jones	Bonnielyn Jones	Brian Dougherty	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Brian Dougherty	Brian Dougherty	Brian Eldridge & Trish Nilsen	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Brian Eldridge & Trish Nilsen	Brian Eldridge & Trish Nilsen	Carl & Catherine Goers Charitable Trust	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Carl & Catherine Goers Charitable Trust	Carl & Catherine Goers Charitable Trust	Carl & Zsafia Franck	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Carl & Zsafia Franck	Carl & Zsafia Franck	Carol Ostrander	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Carol Ostrander	Carol Ostrander	Carol Pitcher	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Carol Pitcher	Carol Pitcher	Cathy Moon	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Cathy Moon	Cathy Moon	Cathy Pitcher	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Cathy Pitcher	Cathy Pitcher	Celeste & Leslie Gorton	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Celeste & Leslie Gorton	Celeste & Leslie Gorton	Charlene Shorten	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Charlene Shorten	Charlene Shorten	Cheryl Caister	Dean & Mary Jane Morgan	Michael & Dawn Redlin	Robert & Linda Morrison		
Cheryl Caister	Cheryl Caister						



### In Memory Of:

Donations were made in memory of the following:

- Susan Iles
- McCarty
- Alice Harris
- Alinda Sisson
- Angie Conti
- Barbara Donnelly
- Betty Bonetti
- Bill & Jean McCann
- Casey Carlson
- Cindy Farabaugh
- Clara Skellinger
- Dave Torrey
- Dick Tulsey
- Ed Banks
- Edward Meyers
- Eileen A. Kopacko
- Elizabeth Bonetti
- Eric Michael Swinarski
- Family Departed
- Gary Murray
- Glenn Carter
- Hank Danelli
- Jack & Ann Evans
- James Schug
- Jeanne Warden
- Jenny Cron
- Jerry Adams
- JoAnn Swinarski
- Joey Swinarski
- John Gromniak
- John Swinarski
- Jon Wesley Hyatt
- Karen Kretsch
- Liz Colucci
- Lt. John L. Jones
- Marie Ward
- Martin Murphy
- Mary Sauerbrey-Hinchcliffe
- Pearl Friedah Kelley
- Richard Tulsey
- Rosemary
- William
- Sharon Hunter
- Thomas Grant
- Thomas Munroe
- Tom Sims
- Violet Geller



### In Honor Of:

Donations were made in honor of the following:

- Cheryl Bishop
- Cheryl Bishop's 60th Birthday
- Dale Corbin's Birthday
- Domenico Fata's 84th Birthday
- Edward Meyers
- Helen Amidon's 90th Birthday!
- Henry Haizinga's 70th Birthday
- Jean Saltisiak
- Jerry Adams
- Jim & Emy Franz's Birthdays

Dear Friend(s),

We offer a special “shout out” to Grand Union and Price Chopper in this newsletter because their contributions increase the quantity and variety that we are able to offer to our pantry patrons. We, at TCRM, highly value variety and choice. For us, it is one of the ways in which we manifest dignity to those who visit our pantry. One patron recently remarked, “I’ve never been to a food pantry like this before.” Food recovery personnel at the Food Bank of the Southern Tier have facilitated these partnerships, and we owe all a debt of thanks.

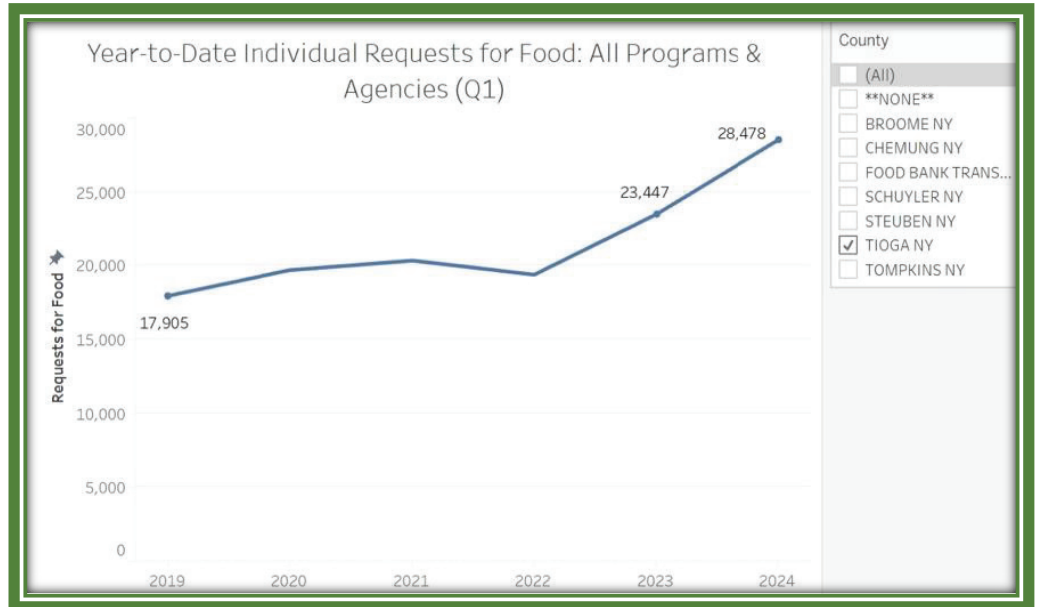
The graph below, disappointingly, points to the stark reality that continues to haunt not only Tioga County, but our friends and neighbors across our state and country.



**SR. MARY O'BRIEN, CSJ**  
**Executive Director**

**Looking at all of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier programs and agencies in Tioga County, the number of individual requests for Q1 2024 (January – March) is up 21 % compared to 2023 and up 59 percent compared to 2019.**

*Source:*  
*Food Bank of the Southern Tier*



Years ago, we would have thought that \$15 an hour, the current per-hour pay in New York state for workers at McDonald’s, was a more than decent wage. Perhaps the only silver lining to the aftermath of COVID was that it helped to increase hourly pay levels. Still, the reality that we daily see from people who come to us seeking assistance is that we are far from offering a basic living wage.

Our neighbors in Pennsylvania provide a \$7.25 minimum wage. That low base pay affects all, too, who work in higher-echelon jobs. For example, a recent Tioga County pantry visitor, a full-time employed RN working in Pennsylvania, mentioned that she had eagerly been awaiting the merger of Guthrie and Lourdes so she could apply for a \$50-an-hour position. But here in New York state, while our minimum wage has increased, the following are some of the disturbing statistics we are seeing in the lives of those who come to us seeking financial assistance.



Month	No. Assisted	New	Seniors	P/T Employed	F/T Employed	Disabled
May	42	31	20	7	14	16
April	32	11	12	1	15	13
March	38	23	4	1	16	1
February	35	16	10	7	20	2

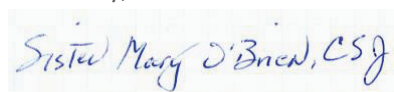
Upon seeing these monthly statistics, one of our Board members asked if there was a common denominator to the huge increase we are seeing in new and full-time employed people asking for help. Galen Morehead, TCRM’s Outreach Services Coordinator, after viewing his financial aid request paperwork, noted that, across the board, the results showed low wages.

While this issue is far more complex than a brief article can expose, I mention these statistics to highlight the need but also to give great thanks to our volunteers and donors who support our ministry, enabling TCRM to be a haven of hope for many.

I am daily humbled by my co-workers and volunteers who reach out with care and compassion to those who walk through our doors. I am awed by the diverse ways in which we offer hope to those affected by one emergency, one car repair, one medical surgery, one victim of a scam, one surprisingly high energy bill. Two weeks ago we helped a single dad with two young children, freshly out of prison after a 1½ year stay, obtain an “out of the box” request for an e-bike, critical for helping him find meaningful employment. He was living in a rural area and unable to drive because of previous alcohol abuse. We were able to provide a hand up to start him on a new path.

Such stories are too numerous to mention. How can we do this? You who offer time, talent and treasure are the lynchpin to our success stories. Thank you immensely for supporting TCRM and the ministry we provide to our neighbors across Tioga. As we look forward in July to celebrating our 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we count on your continued support. You have a daily place in my heart and in my prayer.

Gratefully,



Sister Mary O’Brien, CSJ  
Executive Director



Quilt donations help keep our clients warm in winter.



‘Souper Bowl’ Food Drive at Apalachin Elementary School.



Croton Hose Team at their annual Food Drive.

## MAKE A DONATION!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If you are interested in receiving TCRM's newsletter by e-mail, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the amount of your donation:

\_\_ \$10 \_\_ \$25 \_\_ \$50 \_\_ \$75 \_\_ \$100 Other \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you very much for your contribution. All donations will assist us in our outreach to the poor, sick and elderly of Tioga County.

**Please return this form with your donation to:  
TCRM, 143 North Avenue, Owego, NY 13827**

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

\_\_\_ Distribute food at our Food GiveAway at TCRM on Saturday, Aug.3, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

\_\_\_ Assist on weekdays as a substitute food pantry volunteer:  
\_\_\_ A.M.: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. \_\_\_ P.M.: 1-4 p.m.

\_\_\_ Drive a teen & parent to store of their choice to purchase Back to School clothing. You can name the time/day that works best for you (mid-July/August).

\_\_\_ Bring extra produce to our outside Harvest Share booth during the summer

\_\_\_ Sort food delivery from Price Chopper on \_\_\_ Mondays or \_\_\_ Thursdays, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Here's how to get your TCRM 'merch'

Several times a year, TCRM partners with All Star Sports in Owego to sell TCRM-branded merchandise, including shirts, sweaters, hats, and more. TCRM receives a percentage of the sales from these events, supporting our ongoing initiatives. To find out when the next sale is happening, please send us an email at [info@tcrm.org](mailto:info@tcrm.org).



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jen Monahan, Chair  
Leslie Anne King, Vice-Chair  
Katie Chandler, Treasurer  
Joseph D'Abbracci, Secretary  
Jana Bowen  
Terri Czuhanych  
Mark Farabaugh  
Pam Greene  
Steve Kotula  
Dale Larson  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

We aspire to be a sign of Jesus' presence by serving the unmet needs of the poor, sick and elderly of Tioga County.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Owego, NY 13827

