

Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund

Our Community Aiding Our Community

Hi Everyone—

It pains me to have to draft this letter during a time of such national need. I do so, nevertheless, out of fear of what Covid-19 will do to our beloved Chatham. As Chairman of the Chatham Finance Committee I am intimately acquainted with the finances and budget of our Town, with the work of those in our human services organizations, and generally with the needs and stresses of our full-time residents.

Beneath the veneer of blue hydrangeas, sweeping green lawns, well-maintained homes and our town's natural beauty lies a more hardscrabble existence for many of our full-time residents—from young families through to our community's elderly. There is a depth of need in Chatham that we, while summer residents, found hard to detect, notwithstanding our philanthropy and community engagement over the years.

What we failed to see were the children living with their grandparents as their parents struggle with addiction; single mothers holding down multiple jobs in an effort to provide for their children, or the elderly couple taking newspapers from the transfer station to use as fuel to keep their home warm in the winter. We were surprised to learn that, until recently, Chatham elementary school was located within a federal poverty zone, an area where 50% live below the federal poverty level. We were surprised to learn that the number of students who receive free or reduced-cost meals at Chatham elementary school has grown to the point where the school meets the qualifications for a federally funded anti-poverty program that provides free breakfast and lunch to all students. This is a facet of the full-time Chatham. A Chatham of hard-working, tough-as-a-barnacle women, men and families. Fishermen, landscapers and hospitality industry workers, some of whom with little income over the winter. Seniors on limited fixed incomes.

I'm fearful of what Covid-19 will do to these people, to these families, to the fabric of our town we each so love. While the Town is working on re-forecasting its budget, looking for ways to preserve liquidity, curtail spending and enacting a hiring-freeze there is more to do. To that end, I have been working closely with the Town Manager and several members of the Board of Selectmen to structure and

launch what Mary Beth and I have titled the *Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund* (“CCIF”).

The purpose of CCIF is to serve as a community resource organization in this time of Covid-19-driven need to provide financial assistance upon application by in-need residents of Chatham and to serve as an aggregation vehicle for donations made to assist those Chatham residents adversely effected by the impact of Covid-19.

Our target raise for the fund is \$300,000, of which Mary Beth and I will contribute \$30,000 to seed the fundraising effort. Following consultation with senior professionals in charge of delivering Chatham’s human resource services we will be using Lower Cape Outreach Council, a 501(c)(3) with over 40 years’ experience in providing emergency assistance to our community to vet applications for assistance. Lower Cape Outreach is considered the most effective group on the Cape to deliver relief funds to Chatham residents. To ensure the integrity of the process, no recipient will receive any direct funding; all assistance will be paid to a creditor of the recipient upon evidence of obligation and need.

Monomoy Community Services, a Chatham-based 501(c)(3) which for over 40 years has diligently supported Chatham families with quality resources including childcare for working families, counselling referral services and financial assistance will collect donations on behalf of the Fund. All donations will be held in a separate *Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund* account at the Chatham branch of Cape Cod Five.

We have created an advisory board for the Fund, a working group of which will review all proposed grants of assistance. Mary Beth and I are thrilled that these prominent and long-standing Chatham residents have agreed to support our efforts. Members include Ginny Nickerson, founder of the Chatham Angel Fund; Pat Vreeland, founder of the Chatham Children’s Fund; Teresa Malone, Administrative Director of Monomoy Community Services, Eric Whiteley, Shane Coughlin, Barbara Matteson, Andy Young, Anne LeClaire, Martha Vokey and Bill Litchfield, Chatham Town Moderator and myself.

Assistance will primarily be for housing security and bills—an energy bill, car repairs, or a medical invoice. Food security is not presently a pressing issue on the Cape, given the exceptional work of the Family Pantry and its support from the Boston Food Bank.

While we understand that lives and society have been materially impacted as a result of the pandemic, we ask that you consider supporting the work of the *Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund* in an effort to mitigate the adverse impacts on the Chatham which is so dear to us all. We will be happy to speak with you directly should you have any questions pertaining to this endeavor.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration,

Stephen S. Daniel

Mary Beth Daniel

Donations may be sent to:

*Chatham Coronavirus Impact Fund
c/o Monomoy Community Services
166 Depot Road
Chatham, Massachusetts 02633*

Please make any check payable to Monomoy Community Services and reference CCIF in the memo line of the check.

Alternatively, donations may be made by using PayPal on the Monomoy Community Services website at www.monomoy.org Please reference CCIF in the "Message" box when donating.