

**Cares & Shares Advisory Committee  
Annual Report  
2013**

## CHATHAM CARES AND SHARES ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2013

### Local Public Assistance

Jim Lonergan —Council Liaison

Janice R. Piccolo- Employee Member

It remains a community goal to provide a local approach to public assistance supported by local houses of worship, neighbors helping neighbors, public/private donations for residents identified through Borough departments as those in need.

Chatham neighbors, willing to help other neighbors in the community during their temporary need of assistance became the advisory committee's goal. The following mission statement was adopted by the Advisory Committee:

*Committed to temporarily alleviating financial hardship in Chatham Borough through the power of local support: providing material and financial assistance; bringing residents together with organizations and opportunities that help improve the quality of life; all while preserving the dignity and confidentiality of those served.*

It was further suggested a more reflective name- of- function also be adopted i.e. *Bridging the Gap*.

The Advisory Committee quickly realized that Chatham Borough residents in need of temporary assistance have mixed need of services, for varied reasons, and for various time frames. It is the intent to develop a pool of resources, already available within the community, and to gain a broad base of financial and professional networking support to be able to offer exact assistance directly, on an individual case by case basis for short term assistance. To this end, in 2013 the Cares and Shares Advisory Committee partnered with an existing well established, widely supported, holiday support program at St. Patrick's Church. Our inclusion in their existing program provided for 6 complete holiday packages for residents. The committee has also become a resource for families to assist with youth sport scholarships, partial pool memberships, state dental and health clinics, and job opportunities and resume writing.

In 2013 the Advisory Committee provided support for 18 families, and by December end 12 families remain in contact with their volunteer assigned mentors from the Advisory Committee. Open communication provides the emotional support needed as the families move towards self efficiency through new jobs secured, disability benefits awarded, children maturing requiring less parental supervision providing for dual income households, improved health and other situations.

The committee continues to focus on creating a not for profit organization.