

WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL REPORT 2009

During 2009 there were eight General Assistance cases in Chatham Borough. As required, all cases were monitored for client compliance with State WorkFirst New Jersey regulations in order to maintain eligibility for public assistance. Clients were required to report monthly.

All cash assistance granted to clients is reimbursed 100% to the Borough by the N.J. Department of Human Services. The State issues quarterly advances to Public Assistance Trust Fund II based on the submission of monthly financial and statistical reports to the Department of Human Services. In 2009, \$20,930.57 was expended compared to \$20,826.00 in 2008.

During the year, the municipal welfare department received requests for assistance with utility payments, rent, health insurance premiums, and emergency food. Public Assistance Trust Fund I was used to assist two families with rent. A total of \$1,150.00 was expended compared to \$750.00 in 2008. Care and Share Funds were also used to assist eight families with utility payments, rent, COBRA health insurance premiums, and prescription assistance. Those expenditures totaled \$3,946.52 compared to \$2,488.00 in 2008.

The Care and Share Fund received \$3,000.00 from the Fire Department, Ogden Presbyterian Church, United Methodist Church, and several private donors. The Fund also received \$1,000 in supermarket gift certificates from the United Methodist Church some of which were distributed throughout the year to needy individuals and families. For Thanksgiving, \$260 total in gift certificates was distributed to six households (20 persons). For Christmas, toys donated by Weichert Realtors were distributed to four families with eleven children. Members of the Local Assistance Board shopped for holiday gifts for two individuals and four families.

The Local Assistance Board, appointed by the Mayor with the approval of the governing body, is an advisory board comprised of four members from the community and a member of the council who serves as liaison to the Board. The Board provided oversight and direction to the municipal welfare department. The Board is scheduled to meet four times per year but had five meetings in 2009.

The ongoing generosity and thoughtfulness of Borough organizations and residents has enabled the welfare department to respond to social service situations that come to the department's attention. All cases are responded to in a confidential and expedient manner.