

**Borough of Chatham
Annual Report
2010
Welfare Department**

During 2010 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 2010, \$21,436.70 was expended compared to \$20,930.57 in 2009.

During the year, the municipal welfare department provides information and referral to requests from residents on various concerns such as government benefits and entitlement programs, housing, utility assistance programs, and others.

Requests for assistance with utility payments, rent, health insurance premiums, and emergency food are addressed as needed. The Public Assistance Trust Fund I was not used this year; however, Care and Share Funds were used to assist three families with utility payments and rent. Those expenditures totaled \$1,445.13 compared to \$3,946.52 in 2009.

The Care and Share Fund received a total of \$2,200.00 from the Fire Department, the Jaycees, Ogden Presbyterian Church, and a private donor. The Fund also received \$1,000 in supermarket gift certificates from the Ogden Church and the United Methodist Church. A total of \$440 in certificates was distributed throughout the year to eight households, as well as at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Children's clothing donated by Ogden Church from their two clothing drives was provided to four families with a total of ten children. For Christmas, toys donated by Weichert Realtors were distributed to five families with nine children.

New this year was the introduction of assistance to residents with financial hardship in joining the municipal pool. After an assessment, reduced or no cost for the pool was authorized for two families and three individuals.

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 met four times as scheduled.

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.