

## **Borough of Chatham**

### **Annual Report 2011**

#### **Welfare Department**

The Welfare Department administers the State General Assistance program which is a public assistance program for single or married adults with no minor children. During 2011 there were six General Assistance cases in the borough. As required, all cases are monitored for compliance with the State Work First 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 New Jersey 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 that Department. In 2011, \$10,332.39 was expended.

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, transportation, health services, 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 seven families with various needs. Those expenditures totaled \$539.21.

The Care and Share Fund received a total of \$2,150 from the Jaycees, United Methodist Church, and private donors. The Fund also received \$700 in supermarket gift certificates from the Ogden Church and United Methodist Church. A total of \$580 in gift certificates was distributed throughout the year to twelve 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 seven children. The Department also became the overseer of the Salvation Army Chatham/Madison Fund. A total of \$175 was expended to assist one household with utility bills.

The Department continued to offer assistance to residents with financial hardship in joining the municipal pool. After an assessment, we authorized reduced or no cost for the pool for two families and one individual.

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 a liaison to the Board. The Board provided oversight and direction to the municipal welfare director. 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.