

# OTTAUQUECHEE HEALTH FOUNDATION

GRANTS, FUNDING AND SUPPORT BECAUSE GOOD HEALTHCARE MATTERS TO US ALL.

## **Ottauquechee Health Foundation's Good Neighbor Grant Program**

### **A brief background of our organization and a history of its programs;**

#### ***What is our story?***

The Ottauquechee Health Foundation (OHF) began operating in 1957 as a small regional health center in Woodstock, Vermont. In the 1990's, it became financially unsustainable to manage the health center and the health center medical practice was turned over to a hospital to operate. The Foundation was born in 1996. Since 1999, the OHF has provided over \$2.7 million in support of both individuals and organizations to address the health needs of people in the towns of Hartland, Reading, Plymouth, Killington, Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret, Woodstock, and in the Village of Quechee.

The Foundation's income comes from three sources: annual fundraising, a modest endowment, and rental income from its property which leases office space (at below market rates) to health providers.

### **The objectives of the program;**

#### ***What is the Good Neighbor Grant program?***

The objective of the Good Neighbor Grant program is to make grants on behalf of individuals who are unable to pay for their costs of health care. Good Neighbor Grants are received and funded throughout the year.

Here are comments from grant recipients surveys used for feedback and program evaluation:

*"This is a fantastic program and I so appreciate your financial assistance."*

*"The Foundation worked with a local dentist to help me receive emergency care with two teeth which desperately needed to be removed. Thank You!"*

*"It's nice to know people care about other people. If everyone cared, and pitched in, we may have a perfect world."*

#### ***Our application process is simple and designed to remove barriers for those who need assistance.***

- Applications are made jointly by the individual and the health care provider
- Our Good Neighbor Grants program coordinator works closely with each individual to explore all resources that are available to assist them
- Our Grants Committee meets monthly to review treatment plans and considers each person's financial need and their existing situation
- Each health care provider forgives a portion of each bill. Medical providers are asked to forgive at least 10% of the total bill and dental providers 15%

- OHF uses the federal poverty guidelines as a measure to determine eligibility and asks participants to make a small contribution toward their care if they are able.
- Good Neighbor Grant applicants must be at or below 300% poverty level
- All applicant information is de-identified to protect privacy
- **All grants funded are paid directly to the health care provider AFTER treatment is received.**

### ***Good Neighbor Grant Program Outcomes***

Through our Good Neighbor Grants program, we provide a key service to community members with financial challenges or extenuating circumstances.

The Ottauquechee Health Foundation and its Good Neighbor Grants program helps people who face challenges in their everyday lives and aims to assure that all individuals in our community have access to health care. Our Good Neighbor Grant program reaches rural communities comprised of more than 12,000 people. Individuals and their families who are grant recipients benefit from the Good Neighbor Grant program benefits as does our community as the health of community members is improved.

Good Neighbor Grants comprise 40% of our annual programming. Last year alone, we funded more than \$66,000 in Good Neighbor Grants which benefited 59 households. These grants ranged in size from \$150 to over \$5,000, covering pharmacy, hearing aids, eye glasses, medical supplies, mental health, oral health care, special baby formula, adult diapers for incontinence or physical therapy.

### ***Need, Population, Geographical Area Served, and Gaps in existing services or programs which would be met through funding this proposal;***

The need for access to health care services is evident by the fact that approximately 15% of adults in rural Vermont are underinsured or uninsured and also, due to the lack of access to primary health care in our service area. In addition, 49% of Vermonters do not have oral health insurance and must pay out of pocket for all oral health care needs.

The gaps in our health care system are evident when looking at the requests for assistance through our Good Neighbor Grant program. Applicants need assistance with paying for those services not covered by private or state medical insurance such as medication, glasses, hearing aids, oral health care, and counseling.

For example, we recently received an application from an elderly individual who put off physical therapy after surgery because she could not afford to pay a \$500 deductible from secondary insurance after Medicare. With the Good Neighbor Grant program, this individual was able to receive rehabilitation therapy and remain in her home.

The Ottauquechee Health Foundation serves people of all ages in the towns of Woodstock, Hartland, Reading, Plymouth, Killington, Barnard, Bridgewater, Pomfret, and in the Village of Quechee. Over 12,000 people live in our service area. With the Windsor County poverty rate at 10.5%, nearly 1,300 residents of our service area are at or below the poverty level.

In 2013, the average household income for our Good Neighbor Grant recipients was less than \$21,000 which is 136% above poverty level. The average household size for Good Neighbor Grants is about 2 people (1.8 actual).

***A timetable of the program;***

OHF receives Good Neighbor Grant applications throughout the year and the Grants Committee meets monthly to review and process applications. In urgent situations, the Grants Committee will meet to accommodate the applicant's needs.

***A detailed budget for the program;***

We are well on our way to serve double the number of community members than last year. As of November 25, 2014, we have already granted more than \$80,000 to 102 individuals.

***Other funding sources***

OHF has three primary income sources:

1. Donations from Foundations Businesses and Annual Appeal 2. (50% of income)
2. A Small Investment Portfolio (25%)
3. Net Income from Rents leased to health care professionals and non-profits (25%)

***A description of measurement tools we use to determine the success of the program;***

Once treatment is received, surveys are sent to all grant recipients. Qualitative data is collected from the surveys to assure that we are treating recipients well and that they are better off as a result of our program. The return rate of surveys is greater than 65% and the data is overwhelmingly positive. This year, we are also surveying providers to see how we can best serve their patients. We also look at the success of our program by assuring that we are serving all nine of our communities and granting 100% of our Good Neighbor Grant budget.

**How can you help?**

**Let people know about the Good Neighbor Grant program so they can call OHF if they need help. (802-457-4188).**

**And....remember to donate locally and support your neighbors that need access to health care.** For 2014, the Ottauquechee Health Foundation must raise \$55,500 in grants and an additional \$40,000 through our annual appeal to fund our Good Neighbor Grants program. We need your help.

**Thank you for helping us help others!**

Thank you for supporting our Good Neighbor Grant Program. We value the opportunity to partner with you with an aim of advancing well health for our communities.