

Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Agenda

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

Due to the ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, we will be conducting a remote/virtual meeting of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number (Cell phone or Landline Required) OR citizens can participate by copying the link (Phone, Computer, or Tablet required).

Please click on <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177334189> or call on your phone at 1-929-205-6099, meeting ID is 85177334189.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2022
2. Franklin Ridge Financial Update – Jonathan Juhl
3. Proposed 2023 Meeting Dates
4. Social Services Links

<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/get-help/resources/>

<https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-senior-center-and-council-aging/pages/social-services-referrals>

<https://www.stmarysfranklin.org/svdp>

5. Future Agenda Items

Comments: This listing of matters is that reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

This agenda is subject to change.

**TOWN OF FRANKLIN
MUNICIPAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST**

**September 13, 2022
10:00 AM
Meeting Held via ZOOM**

Meeting Notes

Members Present: Chris Vericker, Maxine Kinhart, Susan Younis, MaryAnn Bertone,
Members Not in Attendance: Jamie Hellen, Judith P. Pfeffer, Chris Feeley

As stated on the agenda, due to the ongoing concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust will conduct a Remote/Virtual Meeting. In an effort to ensure citizen engagement and comply with open meeting law regulations, citizens will be able to dial into the meeting using the provided phone number, or citizens can participate by using the Zoom link also provided on the agenda.

Discussion while waiting for members. There was discussion about homelessness in Franklin and the need for intermediate solutions and the lack of services available in Franklin such as a soup kitchen. Chris V. spoke to Tim Fahey of St. Vincent DePaul in Milford and they provide emergency short term (2-3 nights) solutions. As a Committee, it would be nice to have information to tell people. Maxine stated that the Senior Center has an Outreach Coordinator that might help with social services. Susan noted that St. Mary Church through Catholic Charities do a lot of sponsorship in the affordable housing development end. They may, on a broader scale, have some contacts or resources.

Judith P. Pfeffer, Christopher Feeley entered meeting.

1. Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2022 – Motion by Chris F. to **Approve** minutes, **Second** by MaryAnn. **Roll Call Vote:** Maxine: Yes, Susan: Yes, MaryAnn: Yes, Judith: Yes, Chris F.: Yes, Chris V.: Yes **Vote:** 6-0-0

2. Housing Trust Bylaw – Election of Officers

Chris V. opened nominations for Chairman. Chris F. nominated Chris V. for Chairman. Chris V. accepts nomination. No further nominations. **Roll Call Vote:** Maxine: Yes, Susan: Yes, Judith: Yes, MaryAnn: Yes, Chris F.: Yes, Chris V.: Yes **Vote:** 6-0-0

Chris V. opened nominations for Vice-Chairman. MaryAnn nominates Chris F. for Vice-Chairman. Chris F. accepts nomination. No further nominations. **Roll Call Vote:** Maxine: Yes, Susan: Yes, Chris F.: Yes, Judith: Yes, MaryAnn: Yes, Chris V.: Yes **Vote:** 6-0-0

Chris V. opened nominations for Clerk. Chris V. nominates Maxine for Clerk. Maxine accepts nomination. No further nominations. **Roll Call Vote:** Maxine: Yes, Susan: Yes, MaryAnn: Yes, Judith: Yes, Chris F.: Yes, Chris V.: Yes **Vote:** 6-0-0

3. Housing Update

5 Mark's Way – 1st buyer selected fell through, have approved 2nd buyer. There seems to be difficulty getting financing even with submitting mortgage pre-approvals. Pre-approval letters depend on the entity doing the pre-approval. On-line mortgage portals tend to have looser due diligence standards than a bank. When it comes to underwriting, things fall apart. Pre-qualification letters are only subject to what applicant provides and credit checks may not apply. We do not

accept pre-qualification letters. Maxine always recommends applicants use local banks or MassHousing Partnership for assistance.

Franklin Ridge – Maxine was asked to find out what kind of preference, if any, residents of Eaton Place or Franklin Housing Authority. There is no preference given to these residents. The reason is that Franklin Ridge will conduct a lottery for these units. John Juhl will be seeking to make 70% of the units available for local preference. 70% of 60 units is 42 units. If more applicants apply than there are units available, a wait list will be generated from the lottery. Eaton Place and Franklin Housing Authority residents can apply to Franklin Ridge. Process usually starts 6 months prior to occupancy.

Dover Farms – There is a foreclosure pending in Dover Farms. DHCD Attorney has halted the sale temporarily. The reason DHCD can stop the sale was that the homeowners obtained an illegal loan. They did not seek permission from the town or state before taking out a loan and the bank did not do their due diligence. Technically the loan can be voided, but that never happens. The bank will come to the table to negotiate. There is no guarantee that the current home owners will be able to stay in the house, but the house typically would stay in the subsidized housing inventory or if sold at market rate the town would get the difference between the maximum resale price and the market price.

4. Future Items

#1. Discuss meeting with other folks to understand the whole housing picture from shelter to intermediate to what we provide which is home ownership. Could meet with Franklin Food Pantry and the Senior Center,

#2. The trust can purchase a vacant home, but it must be resold to an income and asset qualified household at the maximum resale price according to the terms in the deed rider. Newer deed riders survive foreclosure so we would not lose the unit from our SHI.

Grey Wolf – DHCD has heard nothing from the deceased owner's daughter nor has Maxine. Mass Health has a lien on the unit and this may be the reason. The family may have no incentive to sell the unit.

Motion by Chris F. to **Adjourn. Second** by Maxine **Roll Call Vote:** Maxine: Yes, Susan: Yes, MaryAnn: Yes, Judith: Yes, Chris F.: Yes, Chris V.: Yes **Vote:** 6-0-0

Meeting Adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Minutes prepared by: Maxine Kinhart

Proposed

2023 Meeting Dates of the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust

Meeting Dates – Tuesdays – 10:00 AM Via Zoom

January 10, 2023

February 14, 2023

March 14, 2023

April 11, 2023

May 9, 2023

June 13, 2023

July 11, 2023

August 8, 2023

September 12, 2023

October 10, 2023

November 14, 2023

December 12, 2023

508-528-7129

Contact Us (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/contact-us/>)



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Building Updates (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/newbuilding-updates/>)
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Special Events (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/special-events/>)

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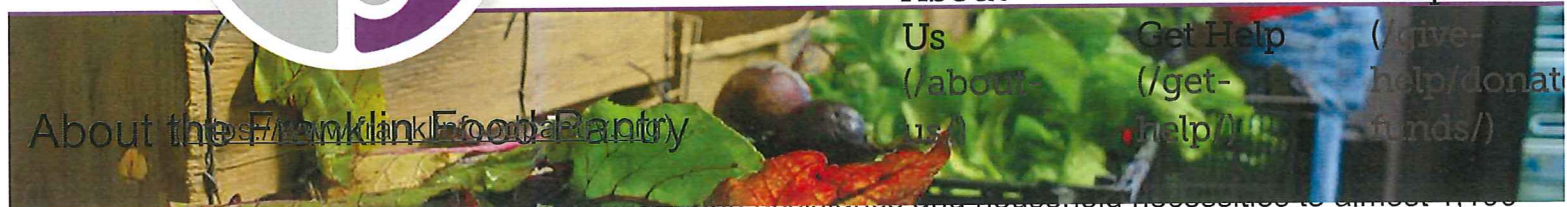
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About the Franklin Food Pantry



The Franklin Food Pantry offers supplemental food assistance and household necessities to almost 1,100

individuals per year. The Franklin Food Pantry is not funded by the Town of Franklin. As a private, nonprofit organization, we depend on donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and other strategic partners. We are grateful for our many partnerships, including that with the Greater Boston Food Bank, that allow us to achieve greater buying power and lower our costs. Donations and grants fund our food purchases, keep our lights on, and put gas in our food truck. Other programs include home delivery, Weekend Backpack Program for Franklin school children in need, mobile pantry, emergency food bags and holiday meal packages. The Pantry is located at 43 W. Central St. in Franklin on Route 140 across from the Franklin Fire Station.

In fiscal year 2021, we served 1097 people

- 625 adults
- 295 children
- 177 seniors

We provided 25,850 bags of groceries that included fresh produce, proteins, eggs, dairy products, household supplies and personal care items. In October 2021, we shifted to a hybrid method of distribution. Neighbors can visit us weekly for either a curbside distribution or for appointment-based in-person shopping.

Typical neighbors include working families trying to make ends meet, people experiencing a temporary job loss, individuals whose SNAP (food stamps) benefits are reduced, and seniors. Seniors often seek help because most are on a fixed income and are impacted by higher medication and health care costs.

The Franklin Food Pantry is not funded by the Town of Franklin. As a private, nonprofit organization, we depend on donations from individuals, corporations, foundations and other strategic partners. We are grateful for our many partnerships, including that with the Greater Boston Food Bank, that allow us to achieve greater buying power and lower our costs. Donations and grants fund our food purchases, keep our lights on, and put gas in our food truck. Please visit our [annual report](https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-Annual-Report-Final.pdf) (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>) for more information.



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News (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/news/>)

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New Building Updates (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/new-building-updates/>)Special Events (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/special-events/>)

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Current Programs (www.franklinfoodpantry.org)

Access to nutritious and fresh food is a critical component to emotional and physical health. The high cost of fresh fruits and vegetables can be a barrier to wholesome nutrition for many families. We offer a variety of programs and services to help clients achieve the best nutritional health possible.



The Mobile Pantry delivers food monthly to our low-income housing partners whose residents have difficulty getting to our downtown location. Families with small children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities have access to common household food staples, meat, dairy, fresh fruits and bakery items.

- **Home Delivery** (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Home-Delivery-Guidelines.pdf>) is

intended to serve clients who live in Franklin who have difficulty visiting the Franklin Food Pantry due to medical issues. If you need food delivery please contact us at 508-528-3155

- **The Weekend Backpack Program** (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/weekend-backpack-program-2/>) provides weekend meals and snacks to children in need through a partnership with Franklin Public Schools.
- **Emergency food bags** are given to anyone who comes to our door for help.
- **Holiday meal packages** are provided for July 4th, Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners for our clients who request it.
- **Carts for Clients** which provides free, portable shopping carts to clients who need a little extra help in transporting their groceries.

Client Needs Assessment – Question of the week in 2021 we gathered information from our existing neighbors with a “question of the week” geared towards gathering input from every client that came through the distribution line. [Here \(https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Question-of-the-Week-6.pdf\)](https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Question-of-the-Week-6.pdf) are the results.

For more information on our programs, please call 508-528-3115.

508-528-7423

Contact Us (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org/contact-us/>)



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Resources (<https://www.franklinfoodpantry.org>)

Additional Assistance

- **Neighbor Brigade (<http://neighborbrigade.org/franklin-ma/>)**
 - Neighbor Brigade is a community-specific network of volunteers that can be mobilized to help residents facing sudden crisis manage day-to-day tasks such as meal preparation, basic household chores and transportation.
 - Toll-Free Phone: 855-241-HELP(4357)
- **St. Vincent de Paul (<http://svdpusa.org/>)**
 - The Society of St. Vincent de Paul offers tangible assistance to those in need on a person-to-person basis. This aid may take the form of intervention, consultation, or often through direct dollar or in-kind service. An essential precept of the Society's work is to provide help while conscientiously maintaining the confidentiality and dignity of those who are served. The Society recognizes that it must assume, also, a role of advocacy for those who are defenseless or voiceless. More than 5 million persons are helped annually by Vincentians in the United States.
 - SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) Counselor assists with any health insurance issues or problems
 - Information, referral, and assistance with accessing public benefits programs; i.e., fuel assistance, food stamps, Mass Health, Veterans programs, etc.
 - Monthly Legal Clinics with an Elder Law Attorney, by appointment
 - Support Services include: Barber, Hairdresser, Manicurist, and Choir Massage.
 - Intergenerational & Volunteer Opportunities are available
 - The Franklin Connection, our newsletter, provides updates on new activities and events and useful information for older adults. Subscriptions are free!
 - Telephone Reassurance & Friendly Visiting, a daily call or visit can be arranged
 - Medical Equipment Loans are offered for free
 - Tax Preparation Assistance is offered annually by trained preparers from AARP
 - TRIAD is a collaboration of the Council on Aging and law enforcement which offers Files of Life to document one's prescription drug history to assist Emergency Medical Personnel
 - Handicapped Accessible Transportation is provided by GATRA, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority; call 800-698-7676 Phone: 508-918-2291
- **Franklin Senior Center (<https://www.franklinma.gov/fsc>)**

- The mission of the Franklin Senior Center is to enhance the independence and quality of life for Franklin older adults by creating programs that meet their needs, offer the knowledge, tools and opportunities to promote their mental, social and physical well-being, advocate for relevant programs and services in the Franklin community, as well as serve as a community focal point for aging issues, and as liaison to local, state and federal resources for older adults and their families.

- Programs

- Health & Wellness Program offers screening clinics, support groups, fitness classes and equipment, health education and evidence-based programs, and Home Safety Evaluations to help prevent falls.

- Nutrition Program is provided through the Common Grounds Café which offers delicious, affordable meals for older adults. We serve breakfast from 8:30 to 10:00 am and lunch at 11:30 am till 1:00 pm.

- Supportive Day Program, The Sunshine Club, offers a supervised, supportive and stimulating environment for frail elders, or those with mild to moderate dementia or cognitive decline. The program is offered Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm; half days are also available.

Services

- SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders) Counselor assists with any health insurance issues or problems

- Information, referral, and assistance with accessing public benefits programs; i.e., fuel assistance, food stamps, Mass Health, Veterans programs, etc.

- Monthly Legal Clinics with an Elder Law Attorney, by appointment

- Support Services include: Barber, Hairdresser, Manicurist, and Choir Massage.

- Intergenerational & Volunteer Opportunities are available

- The Franklin Connection, our newsletter, provides updates on new activities and events and useful information for older adults. Subscriptions are free!

- Telephone Reassurance & Friendly Visiting, a daily call or visit can be arranged

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- TRIAD is a collaboration of the Council on Aging and law enforcement which offers Files of Life to document one's prescription drug history to assist Emergency Medical Personnel

- Handicapped Accessible Transportation is provided by GATRA, the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority; call 800-698-7676

Transportation

- Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)

- *Contact:* **Chuck Curran, Kiessler Transit**

- 800-698-7676

- Curb-to-curb transportation for passengers who meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements and/or are age 60 and above

- Rides will go up to a 15-mile radius. Service is offered Monday through Friday from 6 am – 6:30 pm and Saturday from 9 am – 5 pm. Reservations are taken Monday-Friday from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Franklin Area Fixed Bus Route (<http://www.gatra.org/index.php/routes/bellingham-franklin/franklin-area-bus/>)
- Miles for Health (<http://www.gatra.org/index.php/special-services/miles-for-health/>)/Dial-a-Ride
 - GATRA's Miles for Health program is shared long distance medical transportation serving seniors and people with disabilities in the towns of Franklin, Foxboro, Norfolk and Wrentham.
 - Reservations are taken Monday through Friday from 8 am – 4 pm. 48 hours advanced notice is required
 - **Boston Schedule:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Appointments must be made between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm
 - **All Other Trips:** All other long distance medical trips, such as Burlington, Framingham, Newton-Wellesley and Worcester, will be scheduled for Wednesdays. Appointments must be made between the hours of 9 am and 1 pm
- **FISH of Franklin, Inc.**
- 508-528-2121
- Rides for seniors to and from medical appointments
- Monday-Friday, 9 am – 5 pm. *Franklin residents only*. Reservations needed 3-5 days in advance. Donations accepted, however, the rider pays gas

Substance Abuse

- S.A.F.E. Coalition (<http://safecoalitionma.com/>) (Support for Addicts and Families through Empowerment)
 - 508-488-8105
- **Drop-In Centers**
 - *Community Impact*, 211 Main St., Milford, 5 – 9 pm; 1st & 3rd Thursdays
- Learn to Cope (<http://learn2cope.com/>)
 - *First Universalist Society of Franklin*, 262 Chestnut St., 508-738-5148/774-893-3878, Kathy Getchell (<https://franklininterfaith.org/community/kathyg17@verizon.net>)
- **Community of Hope**
 - *Milford Regional Medical Center*, Hill Bldg, Woman's Pavilion, 4th Floor, Katie Truitt (<https://franklininterfaith.org/community/ktruitt3@gmail.com>), 774-248-4526, Wednesdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- Healing Hearts Community Support (<https://franklininterfaith.org/community/healingheartscircle@gmail.com>)
 - *Franklin YMCA*, 2nd Floor, 45 Forge Hill Rd., 508-570-6996, Thursdays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
- **Recovering Connections (Catholic Charities)**
 - 617-464-8569/617-268-9670
 - Family Support

- Massachusetts Organization for Addiction Recovery (MOAR) (<http://moar-recovery.org/>)
 - 877-423-6627
- Moms Tell (<http://momstell.org/>)
 - Substance abuse treatment, recovery, education & prevention
- Broken No More (<http://broken-no-more.org/>)
 - Online forums, articles, and resources for those grieving substance deaths
- Grief Recovery After Substance Passing (GRASP) (<http://grasphelp.org/>)
 - Support to those grieving an overdose death
- What's Your Grief? (<http://whatsyourgrief.com/>)
 - Bereavement blog with articles related to substance-related losses
- NORCAP Lodge (<https://www.rehab.com/norcap-lodge/5128968-r#contact>)
 - Norcap Lodge offers inpatient and outpatient treatment for individuals with alcohol and/or substance addiction. The program includes drug detox, motivational group therapy, family support, recovery skills education, aftercare support and more. Norcap Lodge is located at 71 Walnut St., Foxboro, MA.
 - 508-543-1873
- **AL-ANON**
 - *St. John's Episcopal Church*, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, 7:30 pm; Open/Discussion meeting (meeting remotely)
 - *A Way of Life House*, 176 Mechanic St. (Rt. 140), Bellingham, 10 am and 12 – 1:30 pm; Open/Discussion meeting
 - *Dean College*, 99 Main St., Ray Bldg., Rm. 01, downstairs, Franklin, 7:30 pm; Open/Discussion meeting
- **Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)**
 - Full listing of every AA meeting in Eastern Massachusetts (<https://aaboston.org/meetings>)
 - *St. John's Episcopal Church*, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, **Friday**, 8:00 pm; Open/Discussion/Speaker meeting
 - *St. John's Episcopal Church*, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, **Saturday**, 8:00 pm; Open meeting (meeting remotely)
 - *St. John's Episcopal Church*, 237 Pleasant St., Franklin, **Thursday**, 7:30 pm; Open/Big Book meeting

About Hunger

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Current Programs

[\(/get-help/special-programs/\)](#)

Current Needs

[\(/give-help/current-needs-list/\)](#)

Contact Us

FRANKLIN FOOD PANTRY
43 WEST CENTRAL STREET
FRANKLIN, MA 02038

FOR ALL MONETARY DONATIONS:
P.O. BOX 116
DONATIONS@FRANKLINFOODPANTRY.ORG (MAILTO:
DONATIONS@FRANKLINFOODPANTRY.ORG)
TELEPHONE: 508-528-3115





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SOCIAL SERVICES & REFERRALS

Senior Solutions Guidebook | Real Life Aid. Local Services | Forms

Fuel Assistance - Applications are now here for fuel assistance through Self Help Incorporated. To submit an application, residents must meet with a Senior Center Social Services Coordinator. Please call the senior center to make an appointment. Prior to that meeting, please review this **checklist** and bring the appropriate information with you to your meeting in order to expedite your application process. Please call the senior center for information.

The MASS Health Buy-In can pay for your Medicare Part B premium if you qualify. Seniors are eligible if monthly income before taxes and deductions for individuals is below \$1,313 and assets are below \$7,080. For married couples, combined monthly income is below \$1,765 and assets are below \$10,620. For more information, call Erin Rogers at the number below.

MA Senior Legal Helpline - The Helpline provides FREE legal information, advice and referral services for Massachusetts senior citizens in most areas of civil law, including: Social Security, SSI, Veterans Benefits, consumer issues, Mass Health, Medicare, public benefits, unemployment, foreclosures, guardianship, powers of attorney, bankruptcy, evictions, landlord/tenant, utilities, domestic relations, and long-term care. Call 1-866-342-5297.

Transportation for Medical Appointments to Boston, Worcester and other destinations is now available with GATRA through Kiessling Transit; call 800 698-7676.

Applications For The Following Programs & Benefits Are Available At The Franklin Senior Center: Food Stamps, Handicapped Placards, Homestead Act, Health Care Proxy, Mass Health, Prescription Advantage, and the Elder Home Repair Program; please call for more information.

Tax Deferrals for Senior Home Owners: Seniors (65 years of age or older) who meet certain income guidelines can defer property taxes until they sell their property or pass away. The Town of Franklin now allows elders who are in the tax deferral program to defer water and sewer charges, and betterment fees. For more information about the deferral process, please call the Senior Center or the Assessor's Office.

You may also qualify for the **Circuit Breaker Tax Credit** of up to \$1,150 if you pay more than 10% of your income in real estate taxes and water and sewer bills. Seniors 65 or over whose property taxes (or 25% of your rent) exceed 10% of their gross annual income may be eligible for a tax credit for this year and the past three years - even if they've never filed Massachusetts state income tax forms. Property owners can add 50% of water and sewer fees (if they're not in your property tax bill) to the total taxes paid. Those who qualify receive the amount by which their taxes exceed 10% of income, up to a maximum of \$1,150 for tax

year 2020, but taxes must be filed to earn this tax credit. For assistance in filing for this credit, call Maggie Gundersen at 508-520-4945, or watch [this tutorial](#):

SHINE (Serving the Health Information Needs of Elders): For information about health insurance issues, call to make an appointment with our SHINE counselor.

Prescription Advantage: Prescription Advantage is a state-run program which helps many seniors pay for their prescription drugs. Eligibility is based on income only and there is no asset limit! If you are a Massachusetts resident, eligible for Medicare, and are:

65 years or older with an annual income at or less than \$58,350 for a single person or \$78,650 for a married couple

OR

Under 65 years and disabled, with an annual income at or less than \$21,940 for a single person or \$29,572 for a married couple.

If you are 65 years or older and not eligible for Medicare, you can also join and there is no income limit. There is no charge for joining Prescription Advantage, if you have an annual income at or less than \$35,010 for a single person and \$47,190 for a married couple. There is a \$200 per person annual enrollment fee for those with higher incomes. Call Prescription Advantage today to enroll on the phone or ask for an application form. You can reach Prescription Advantage at 1-800-AGE-INFO (1-800-243-4636), then press or say 2.

Veterans' Benefits: There has been an increase in the amount of Property Tax Exemptions available to certain Disabled Veterans or their survivors. Please call Dale Kurtz, Veterans Agent (508 520-4973) for more information, or to learn more about Veteran's benefits.

Project Lifesaver provides a wrist bracelet with a radio transmitter to individuals with dementia who are at risk for wandering off. Should the individual wander, the caregiver notifies the police, and a search and rescue team is deployed with a mobile radio receiver to track the signal. To date, all the individuals wearing Project Lifesaver wrist bands have been retrieved safely within 30 minutes. The program is sponsored by the Norfolk County Sheriff's Office along with TRIAD and the Franklin Rotary has made a generous donation to Project Lifesaver to help serve Franklin residents. The Franklin Police Department has been trained in search and rescue protocol for this program by the Sheriff's office. The cost for the program is nominal and can be waived for low income individuals. For more information, call the Council on Aging at 508 520-4945.

Elder Abuse most likely comes from someone the elder knows. Anyone can report elder abuse with immunity from civil and criminal liability that could result from making a report as long as they report in good faith. Call the Elder Abuse Hotline at 1-800-922-2275.

Source URL: <https://www.franklinma.gov/franklin-senior-center-and-council-aging/pages/social-services-referrals>

Thank you ... The St. Vincent de Paul Society expresses heartfelt thanks to the Parish of St. Mary and all who donated to the recent Walk for the Poor. Your generosity was overwhelming. All donations will be used to support those in need in Franklin.

St. Mary's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Mission Statement

A network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need.

(SVdP USA, Approved April 14, 2018)

Volunteer: The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVdP) is a volunteer, lay Catholic organization with a Conference at St. Mary Parish. Adult men and women, known as Vincentians, help each other grow spiritually and live out the gospel values by helping neighbors in need in their community, regardless of religious affiliation. New volunteers are always welcome and receive a formal orientation and training.

Assistance: A person or family in need is encouraged to call SVdP (*Assistance Letter*). Vincentians respond to the call and make arrangements for two SVdP members to make a home visit to determine how best the Conference can be of help. All information is kept confidential, and each person is treated with dignity.

Donation: SVdP Conference funding comes from donations. St. Mary Parish parishioners and parish groups, including the Knights of Columbus, have been very generous. Other funding sources include the Friends of the Poor Walk, a Christmas card donation program, and donations from local companies and organizations. Donations in memory of loved ones are also an appreciated source of funding for us. The Conference maintains a small non-perishable food pantry made possible by generous food donations from parishioners.

Please contact St. Vincent de Paul Society:

- **Assistance** - 508-918-2291 or svdp02038@gmail.com; *Assistance Letter*
- **Volunteer** - 508-918-2291 or svdp02038@gmail.com
- **Donations** – Mail check to: SVdP Society, St. Mary Parish, One Church Square, Franklin, MA 02038

Year at a Glance: Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2021

“We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.” – Mother Teresa

Thank you to all the parishioners, the Knights of Columbus and all the other organizations for their support of SVDP by generously donating food and financial assistance so we could offer assistance to Franklin residents in need. Special thanks to Fathers Brian, Jack and Frank and Deacons Guy and Ron for spreading God’s message of the importance of helping others.

Our 38 members volunteered almost 5,500 hours meeting with families in need a total of 884 times, with 2,523 people helped. The impact of Covid - 19 has again required us to use procedures that keep Vincentians and the people we serve safe. We no longer made in home visits but worked in pairs meeting those seeking assistance in the lower church or over phone/zoom to thoroughly assess the need. Any financial assistance is paid directly to the provider of services and not to the person seeking assistance. Food deliveries are made to the front door

entrance way.

Your support helped us:

- Distribute 532 bags of donated food & 136 personal hygiene bags
- Give out 75 Complimentary SVDP Thrift Store vouchers worth \$4,000

Financially, your donations served families 577 times for a total of over \$ 71,000

- Housing assistance 49 times for \$29,908
- Caring Tree 102 families / 245 people with Gifts cards of \$11,625
- Easter Meal Food Cards 81 families for \$8,850
- Grocery store, Gas & Other gift cards 146 times for \$6,850
- Assist 16 families impacted by fires with food, gift cards, clothing vouchers and hotels
- Utilities 30 times for \$6,640
- Automobile related assistance 11 times for \$4,661
- Other: Medical, Furniture, Tuition, Insurance, Veterans Day recognition

We continue to have strong relationships with other town organizations and businesses and gave families 292 referrals to town, state and federal agencies that might help them.

The most important members of this Ministry are each of you, our Contributing members, without whom we would not be able to serve. We thank you for your generosity, and want you to know your contributions are very appreciated by the people we serve.

Promoters of Hope, Apostles of Charity and Advocates of the Dignity of the human person

Contact Information

St. Vincent de Paul Society

508-918-2291

Meeting Times

2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 7:00pm

For Info or Assistance

SVdP Ministry

508-918-2291 or

svdp02038@gmail.com

SVdP/St. Mary Parish Service Information

Food Pantry Needs - check weekly bulletin

SVdP Resources

Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA: ssvpusa.org

Society of St. Vincent de Paul USA Facebook: facebook.com/svdpusa

St. Mary Parish

One Church Square

Franklin, MA 02038

508-528-0020

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