

Community Service Committee

Annual Report 2015-2016

The Community Service Committee makes the following annual report of our activities:

Co-Chairs: Marje Stickler and Wendy C. Kasten

Members 2015-2016: Kathleen Kearns, Corliss Davis, Eileen Morelli, Jewel Rayner, Cathy Bradbury, Karen Knox, Deborah Hopper, Elisabeth Goodridge, Elsa Wood (Chapin), Dorothy Colcord, Janine Gates.

- SC CSC members and many other SC volunteers called over 350 seniors in Waldo County in preparation for the Holiday Food Baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. "Neighbor4Neighbor" coordinates area agencies for holiday food gift programs. SC members make calls to verify applicant need, and gather relevant information, such as number of people in the household, and directions to the property.
- SC CSC members and many other volunteers (including a few SC recruits) volunteered to read to elementary aged school children during early March 2016 as part of *Read Across America*. Participating schools included Captain Albert Stevens; Searsport Elementary; East Belfast Elementary; Edna Drinkwater Elementary; Kermit Nickerson Elementary; Lincolnville School, Morse Elementary, and Monroe Elementary.
- SC CSC members have voted in favor of this committee supporting the work of Waldo County "Window Dressers." This organization makes storm windows for Waldo County homes in need to reduce energy consumption during Maine winters. The CSC Committee is exploring the best ways to support this worthy initiative which benefits seniors and others county-wide.
- During the summer, a Waldo County initiative arose which demanded SC CSC attention. Spear-headed by the new Belfast Public Health Nurse, Samantha Paradis, various county constituent groups are lending voices to a movement that may result in the Belfast Area becoming designated as an "Age-Friendly Community" by the AARP. 90 cities nationwide have this designation; 15 of them are in Maine, most recently Bucksport. Ms. Paradis has engendered participation from the City Planner, Parks and Recreation, the 911 Director, the Hospital, the Retired Teachers Association, and more. Recently, the Belfast City Council voted to support this initiative. CSC Co-chairs Wendy C. Kasten and Marje Stickler have been attending these meetings. SC members interested in being a part of this would find their participation welcome. This movement has gained a great deal of momentum during the summer. The CSC committee recently voted to support this also. In fact, as Waldo County is evaluated for this designation, the presence of Senior College will help in our eligibility. This may be a topic of discussion for a future board meeting.

- The SC CSC Committee has been holding occasional meetings during the lunch break when SC is in session. Several committee members listed above have elected not to continue for the new year. The committee welcomes the interest and participation of new members. Contact Wendy C. Kasten (338-0462; wkasten@kent.edu) or Marje Stickler (338-5059; mbstick40@gmail.com) if you are interested!!