

August 16, 2019

Dear Friends of Care and Share,

We at Care and Share are proud to tell you that 2019 marks our 30<sup>th</sup> year of serving the communities of East Lyme and Salem. We are a non-profit organization of more than 100 people. We have no paid staff; all work is done by volunteers, and every dollar we raise is used to help those in need.

Care and Share distributes food to an average of 72 households per month. In addition, we give holiday food baskets for Spring, Thanksgiving, and Winter holidays. We assist East Lyme and Salem residents in need with the cost of housing, electricity, and heating. Care and Share provides children and adults with warm coats in winter and camperships for children in summer. Scholarships are available for college and trade schools. Our Holiday Store of donated toys and small gifts is open for clients to choose free gifts for family members.

For 30 years we have depended on donations from our fellow residents and local businesses. Unfortunately, in a trend that seems to affect charities across the country, our donations are well below our anticipated levels.

The *New London Day*, in an article published on June 19, 2019, references the just-released annual report of the Giving USA Foundation which states that charitable giving has shown "its biggest drop since the Great Recession of 2008-2009." *Newsweek* recently reported that charitable giving has dropped nationwide as a result of the Federal Tax Cuts and the Jobs Act of 2017, and the *Hartford Courant*, in an article appearing on July 15, 2019, states that "non-profits have had to cut some programs and services...and use cash reserves to stay afloat."

Care and Share needs your help. Our programs are possible only with your support. Without more help from the community, Care and Share will be forced to reduce or eliminate much-needed programs.

Please, help us to help our neighbors.

Thank you,

Gayle Booth  
President

Donations may be made at our website: [www.careandshareofel.org](http://www.careandshareofel.org)  
or in the enclosed envelope to Box 114, East Lyme, CT 06333  
Care and Share of East Lyme, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization