

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ Email _____

Please make checks payable to Berkshire Taconic/Neighbor-to-Neighbor and return to:
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation 800 North Main Street, PO Box 400, Sheffield, MA 01257

Save paper and postage! Consider donating online at www.berkshiretaconic.org/makeadonation

Your neighbor thanks you for supporting Neighbor-to-Neighbor.

Berkshire Taconic partners with social service agencies to distribute Neighbor-to-Neighbor funds.
Those in need should contact:

Berkshire County, MA
Berkshire Community Action Council
413.445.4593
Williamstown Food Pantry 413.458.3149
(for Williamstown residents only)

Columbia County, NY
Columbia Opportunities
518.828.2851

Northeast Dutchess County, NY
NED Corps client advocates
Tina Gutierrez 845.264.4675
or
Mariella Ribbeck 845.235.5713

Northwest Litchfield County, CT
Town social workers in the Northwest
Corner of CT

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation builds stronger, more vibrant communities and improves the quality of life for all residents of Berkshire County, MA; Columbia County and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT. Since 1987, we have been an agent for positive change in the region we serve. In education, health care, basic human services, transportation, the arts, youth and senior programs—our grants touch all aspects of life and every person in the Berkshire Taconic region. Each year, we help thousands of donors achieve their philanthropic goals and hundreds of nonprofits carry on their good work. Berkshire Taconic is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

800 North Main Street, PO Box 400 Sheffield, MA 01257-0400
t: 413.229.0370 f: 413.229.0329 e: info@berkshiretaconic.org www.berkshiretaconic.org



Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is certified in compliance with the national standards of excellence established by the Council on Foundations.



Neighbor-to-Neighbor

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Moving Forward By Giving Back

Extraordinary times inspire extraordinary generosity.

Recently, a local family decided not to go on vacation and instead donated \$5,000 to the Berkshire Taconic Neighbor-to-Neighbor program. In their words: “We know we can’t solve poverty ourselves, but we can help out. We can help our friends and community.”

The Neighbor-to-Neighbor program provides emergency assistance for local residents who are in economic distress. Neighbor-to-Neighbor makes small grants (generally around \$500) to help those with overdue utilities, medical bills, short-term housing costs and transportation problems. Checks are written to the vendor (landlord, utility company, pharmacy or mechanic) on behalf of the community member in need. The funds are not intended for long-term or ongoing assistance, but for strategic intervention to help achieve a measure of stability and avert further crises.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor is an expansion of Berkshire Taconic’s Emergency Relief Fund, which for more than 15 years worked with social service organizations and churches to help those in desperate need. Neighbor-to-Neighbor now gives everyone in our region the opportunity to offer help to their neighbors. Donors may restrict their donations to specific towns or communities.

To donate to the Neighbor-to-Neighbor program, please call 413.229.0370, mail in the attached form or visit www.berkshiretaconic.org

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Grants Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation awards emergency funds to hundreds of struggling community members each year. Following are examples of recent grants:

- A single mother of three whose husband had recently deserted the family was granted \$500 to help cover daycare costs so that she could return to work and support her family.
- A man received \$500 for therapeutic shoes to help with ambulation. He had weak feet and legs due to childhood polio.
- A quadriplegic living on a fixed income was granted \$175 to help repair the lift on his van.

- A man who had been laid off from his job had been actively seeking employment for more than a year, but received no offers. His uninsured car was limiting his job search. Neighbor-to-Neighbor paid \$500 toward his car insurance bill so he could search a wider area for employment.
- A disabled woman living on a fixed income received \$500 to help cover her dental bill. A local dentist charges the absolute minimum to assist his patients, but she could not afford the balance. He replaced some of her front teeth, giving back her ability to chew.
- A single mother facing eviction received \$500 to assist in paying her rent. She had four children and had lost her job, leaving them with no source of income.
- An uninsured woman undergoing cancer treatment was granted \$500 to help with transportation costs to and from her chemotherapy sessions, as well as with pharmacy bills associated with her treatment.

- An elderly widow living on a fixed income was granted \$500 to repair her well.
- A woman who was no longer able to work because of severe arthritis, spinal stenosis and fibromyalgia and who was in need of hip replacement was granted \$400 to help repair her car. She needed the car for transportation to health care appointments and her monthly social security benefits were not enough to cover the repair expense.
- A man without health insurance was granted \$500 to pay medical bills he owed. He was suffering from mental illness and could not work due to his condition.
- A single mother of three receiving no child support and facing eviction was granted \$500 to help pay the rent. She was employed, but could work only 15 hours per week because of the high cost of childcare.

- A young single mother of two was granted \$500 to help purchase a used refrigerator and stove. She was working and attending school and she had received housing assistance for her family, but it hadn’t included appliances.
- A grandfather raising his three-year-old granddaughter was granted \$500 to help with his electric bill. He fell behind with the bill because he was trying to save money for a new apartment that could better accommodate the two of them.
- A woman with cerebral palsy was granted \$450 to help with a veterinarian bill for her assistance dog. While her dog was being trained, he was diagnosed with severe heartworms. The woman was unable to work due to her disabilities and lived on social security; without emergency funds, she could not afford the cost of the medical treatments for her dog.

Yes! I want to support Neighbor-to-Neighbor.

- Enclosed is my tax deductible contribution of \$_____
- To make a donation using your credit card visit www.berkshiretaconic.org and click on “make a donation.”

Please use my donation as follows:

- Wherever it is needed most in the Berkshire Taconic region
- Berkshire County
- Columbia County
- Northeast Dutchess County
- Northwest Litchfield County
- Specific town(s) within the Berkshire Taconic region