



C.E.C.H.



# Chatham Ecumenical Council

*Helping Prevent Homelessness*

June 30, 2020

Dear Neighbor,

This year, our lives have been thoroughly disrupted and medical vulnerability and hardship are widespread and relentless. The COVID-19 pandemic is unprecedented in recent memory. As the economy and community life slowly begin to adjust to the new reality, CECH stands ready to meet the critical needs of families in Chatham and surrounding communities. Government assistance has helped to stabilize household budgets up to this point, but many of our neighbors will be stretched beyond their means in the coming months.

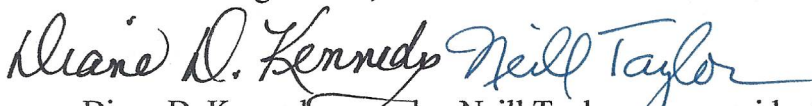
The need is real – in the first five months of 2020, CECH has provided \$34,468 in assistance to 18 families in Chatham and surrounding communities. Last year, CECH provided \$54,457 in grants for the entire year. The circumstances are compelling, for example:

- **A disabled woman living with her elderly parents with dementia was taken to court by her landlord over back rent; \$1,000 in CECH assistance enabled her to pay and avoid eviction.**
- **A 78-year-old man was out of work for two months due to back surgery and cataract surgery; \$1,600 from CECH made it possible to maintain his housing.**
- **A grandmother raising her 7-year-old granddaughter living in the home of her recently deceased mother found the house was subject to liens due to Medicaid expenses and a reverse mortgage; \$700 in fuel assistance from CECH kept her home heated this winter.**

CECH – the Chatham Ecumenical Council Helping Prevent Homelessness believes the best way to cope with homelessness is to help prevent it - by providing emergency financial support for those dealing with such hardships as unexpected medical costs, lost jobs, and seasonal unemployment. CECH works closely with the Homeless Prevention Council, Chatham Council on Aging, Lower Cape Outreach Council and St. Vincent de Paul to identify neighbors in need and ensure that grant recipients meet our high standards of eligibility. CECH has helped over 1,500 families avoid homelessness since its inception in 1993, raising and distributing more than \$1.46 million, with minimal administrative expense as an all-volunteer non-profit organization.

Thank you for your critically important donations! As we adjust to the pandemic, we are asking for your help and empathy, holding our neighbors in your hearts. Enclosed is an envelope for donations by check; for donations by PayPal go to: <https://cechomelessprevention.org/>.

With sincere gratitude,

  
Diane D. Kennedy and Neill Taylor co-presidents

CECH is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. No gifts, services or special benefits are being provided to you in return for your contribution to CECH.

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[CECHomelessprevention.org](https://cechomelessprevention.org)