



2020

“Homeless Christmas Tree” and “Warmth for the Sole” Initiative
November 20th – December 21st

The 9th Annual Lewis County Youth Bureau’s “Homeless Christmas Tree” initiative is slated **to begin November 20th – December 21st**. This initiative supports an array of local agencies who recognize there is a hidden epidemic that has to do with homelessness. There are many reasons that individuals and families find themselves “out in the cold” such as Job loss; illness; addictions; lack of safe and affordable housing; economic hardships; and due to house fires. This initiative helps local agencies help local residents who have faced economic hardships to get back on their feet.

This year we are collecting new personal hygiene, baby items, kitchen, bathroom and cleaning supplies and bedding. In addition, we are coordinating efforts with Josh Fitzgerald, Owner of Lake Effect Tech, and Scott Morgan, Financial Center Manager for Americu Credit Union, to also collect socks, winter hats/gloves, and scarves (for children and adults) for their new project called “Warmth For the Sole.” This project, similar to their annual Backpack Drive, will highlight our ability as North Country residents to give those who struggle an easy and inexpensive way to protect our most vulnerable as winter approaches. Socks are the biggest request, but proper cold weather attire is equally necessary.

LISTED BELOW ARE THE ITEMS WE ARE IN NEED OF

Baby items: Diapers (all sizes); wipes, shampoo, lotion, wash and powder.

Socks, Winter Hats/Gloves and Scarves (for children and adults).

Personal Hygiene Items: Shampoo/Conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrushes, soap, toilet paper and Laundry Pods.

Kitchen Items: Pots & Pans, can openers, silverware and plates.

Bedding/other Items: Sheets (twin and full), blankets, mattress pads (twin and full), pillows, towels and washcloths.

*Beginning November 20th through December 21st donated items can be dropped off at Lake Effect Tech located at 7567 South State Street in Lowville Monday through Friday from 8am to 4pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 8am to 12:00 noon or contact Penny Moser, Director Lewis County Youth Bureau at 315.376.5411 to make other arrangements. Monetary donations will also be accepted for the “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative to replenish items needed throughout 2021. Checks can be made out to the Lewis County Youth Bureau located at 5274 Outer Stowe Street, Lowville, NY 13367. **PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THESE VERY IMPORTANT INITIATIVES....THANK YOU!***

Listed below are a couple testimonials from two of many local agencies that utilize donations collected through the Annual “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative in an effort to meet the needs of their consumers.

*“The Homeless Tree Initiative has been able to fill gaps for some of our cases that have emergencies. Many times, most times, emergencies do not happen within our convenient business hours and the “program process” isn’t conducive to meet some pretty simple immediate needs. The Homeless Tree Initiative has been able to use their donations to have a closet here in our office. This closet is consistently stocked with ready-to-eat food, personal, and many miscellaneous items that we take for granted every day. These items at the very least, offer nourishment for someone for a night and with other items that we are able to provide, such as a blanket, **Hope**. If there is any hesitation that the Homeless Tree Initiative does not make a real difference, please know that it absolutely does and has been able to meet needs of our own community members throughout the year.”*

*Amanda Waugh, Senior Social Services Program Examiner
Lewis County Department of Social Services*

“The Youth Bureau’s Annual Homeless Christmas Tree has helped individuals in our community beyond measure. For the past 8 years Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (NRCIL) staff have successfully connected individuals in need to the items that were so graciously donated. This is an outstanding resource for families and individuals in their time of need. The process is seamless and simple as we connect individual’s unmet needs to our community. Saying thank you, does not seem adequate- your program is making a difference in the lives of many people living in Lewis County.”

*Karen Boliver, Associate Director
Northern Regional Center for Independent Living*