



Connecting Neighbors, Enriching Lives

Freeport Community Services

Since 1974



ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



A place for everyone



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A place for everyone is what the founders of Freeport Community Services (FCS) had in mind when they decided to take action to address community needs for food, fuel and clothing. They envisioned a place where people would be welcomed whenever they sought help and where they could easily connect to neighbors seeking to lend a hand and support to those in need.



Paula Paladino, M.A., Executive Director and Pat Palmer, 2018-2019 Board President (l to r).

45 years later, thanks to the dedicated service of our staff and hundreds of volunteers, along with the kind generosity of our donors and sponsors, FCS fulfills its mission of connecting neighbors, enriching lives and helping those in need in Freeport and Pownal every day. FCS truly has become a place for everyone.

We hope you will find this annual report informative and inspiring. We thank our supporters and invite you all to visit us to experience Freeport Community Services for yourselves!

Thank you.

Paula Paladino
Paula Paladino, M.A.
Executive Director

Pat Palmer
Pat Palmer
2018-2019 President,
Board of Directors

Aging in place, in partnership with Bath Housing Authority

Leland Anderson was recovering from shoulder surgery and coping with COPD when he and his wife Jan knew they could no longer manage on their own. Everyday life had become very difficult and just getting around safely was challenging for Leland. Jan knew they needed help. Experience donating and volunteering at Freeport Community Services over the years reminded Jan that the purpose of FCS is to help neighbors who are struggling.

A referral from FCS to Bath Housing Authority (BHA) quickly changed the Andersons' lives. Jan marveled at how easy it was to access BHA's Comfortably Home program. The team at Comfortably Home specializes in minor home improvements and safety modifications. Jan's call to Jessica Irish of BHA prompted a timely in-home visit and a few simple recommendations to improve safety and access were identified. Work was scheduled and completed in a couple of weeks. Grab bars were installed in the bath. Loose steps to the front door were stabilized and new smoke and carbon monoxide detectors were installed. Railings and safety strips were added to the stairway leading to Leland's workshop where he enjoys tying flies.

Jan and Leland acknowledge it was difficult to ask for help at first. Working with BHA was much easier than expected. BHA provided materials, supplies and a contractor the Andersons felt quite comfortable

with and trusted to do the work. BHA's Comfortably Home is high impact, low cost repairs, free to those who are eligible. Jan and Leland urge others in the community who find themselves unable to make small home improvements or repairs to reach

out to community organizations such as Freeport Community Services and the Bath Housing Authority where neighbors and volunteers are standing by and ready to help.



“Contributing back to the community is very important to us, and nothing reflects more about what community is about than FCS. That's why we give and support FCS as much as we can.”

– Al Brown, Owner, Buck's BBQ

No child should go hungry on our watch

At Freeport Community Services we do everything in our power to help neighbors who are struggling to provide good nutrition for their families. No child should go hungry if we can help it.

We all agree that when a community takes care of its children, everyone benefits. In 2019 an average of 162 households were served monthly at the



FCS Food Pantry and more than 100 households received a specially prepared Thanksgiving food box so their families could enjoy a holiday meal at home.

Over the summer, 1,455 free lunches

were served at four locations to reach children in their neighborhoods. Last year, FCS also awarded camp scholarships to 87 children so they could attend a summer camp of their choice where they received lunch and engaged in a full day of activities.

During the school year, every Friday the Freeport Community Services Backpack Program provided more than 50 children with easy-to-prepare food. Proper nutrition over the weekend ensured these students could come to school on Monday ready to learn.

We understand children and families with a reliable source of good nutrition are more likely to thrive and reach their full potential. This is just one reason why FCS endeavors to ease hunger in our community by reaching out to children where they live and play.



Freeport Community Services, a place for everyone.

Freeport Community Services is a place where those in need come for a helping hand, caring support and access to services that can make a big difference in their lives.

Freeport Community Services is a place where new friendships are formed and old friends find each other. At the Freeport Community Center people gather to have coffee and chat, play dominos, visit the Thrift Shop, take a tutored lesson, enjoy a hot blueberry pancake breakfast hosted by the Freeport Elders Association or meet up with friends at an FCS Community Lunch. Families frequently celebrate birthdays and weddings and attend concerts at the center and it is a popular meeting spot for local businesses, nonprofits and civic groups.

It is a place where volunteers give time and offer their talents to help neighbors in need and to make their lives a little better. Whether it's volunteering at the Food Pantry or Thrift Shop, packing food for students to take home over the weekend, helping with fundraising events and special projects or driving a neighbor to a doctor's appointment, FCS is a place where volunteers come to serve and to be part of their community.

There truly is a place for everyone, and all members of our community are always welcome. It's what makes our mission of connecting neighbors and enriching lives possible and is at the heart of everything we do.

The "dominoes ladies", Antonia, Kathy, Carol and Anne, stop by the Freeport Community Center each month. Friends for many years, they reached out to FCS when they needed a new spot to meet. For them, it's a chance to chat, play and catch-up. To show their appreciation, they often bring donations to the Food Pantry or Thrift Shop.



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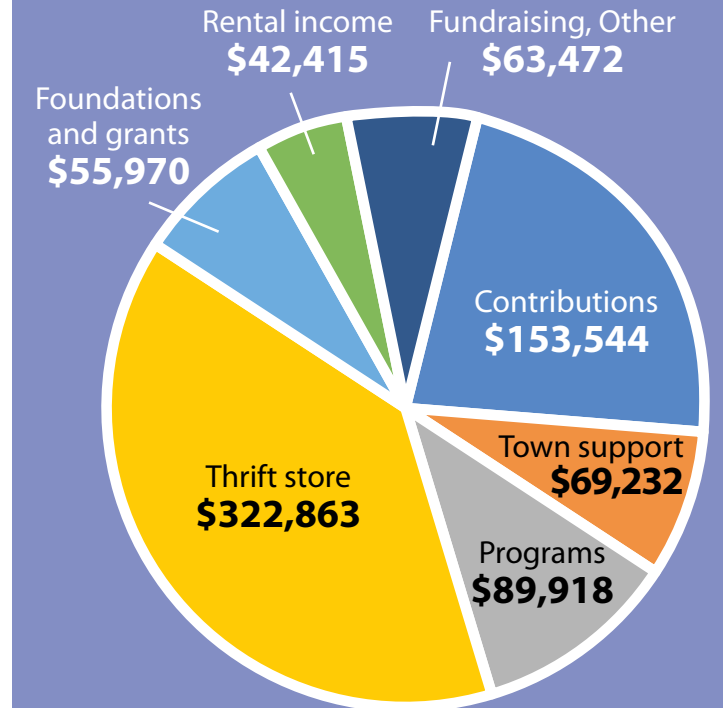
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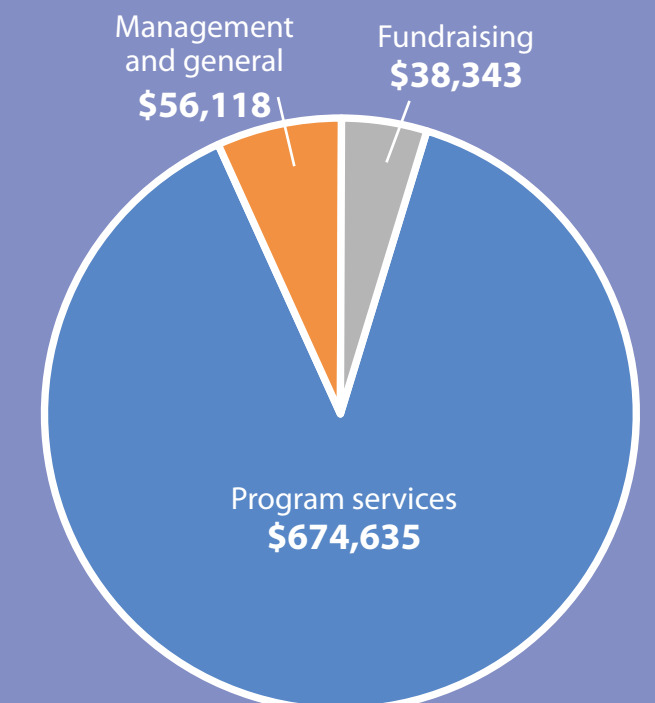
2018/19 financial report

FCS revenue increased by 4% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. Below are the fiscal year 2019 revenue and cash expenses.

FY19 revenue Total revenue: \$797,414



FY19 expenses Total expense: \$769,096



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Your support makes everything we do possible.

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