



HOMELIFE



Nancy Carter

Revised August 2008

Section 13 - 01 Page 1 of 1

HOMELIFE

INDEX

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. GENERAL INFORMATION
- C. HOMELIFE GOALS & PROJECT IDEAS
- D. HOMELIFE RESOURCES
- E. JOB RESPONSIBILITIES



I am very proud to be chairing the Homelife Department. To me the Homelife Department is the soul of a Junior club. The goal of the Community Living Division of Homelife is to improve the lives of the families in our communities who are suffering due to financial stress. Homelife revolves around family lives within our communities. My goals for this division include: State Wide Food Collections for the Food Banks in Connecticut; Clubs Adopting Needy Families in their area and Serving in local Soup Kitchens.

The goal of the Youth Division is to involve youth in volunteer community service, thereby teaching them what reality is all about. My goals for this division include: Sponsoring local youth groups; Supporting Teen facilities that help to keep teens off the street and to Recognize youth for their community service.

The goal for Gerontology is to improve the lives of the seniors in our state by sponsoring events for seniors only, i.e. Senior Proms; assisting seniors either physically or financially and by Honoring seniors for their continued community service.

Nancy Carter
CJW Homelife Chair

HOMELIFE DEPARTMENT

Welcome to the Homelife Department! Thanks for "checking it out" in the CJW Blue Book!

The **Overall Goal** for this department is to enhance the lives of **all** members of the community: families, children of all ages, and senior citizens, but especially those who are in need of extra assistance because of financial difficulties. It can be accomplished by specific "hands on" service projects, financial support, emotional support, and/or donations of goods.

The **four divisions** for this department are:

Community Living - activities or assistance directed to **families** through homeless shelters, soup kitchens, food, clothing and fuel banks, family support groups, community family events, and the town Social Services Department.

Gerontology - activities or assistance directed to **senior citizens** through Senior Centers, nursing/rest homes, local transportation & meals programs, and the town's Commission on Aging.

Youth - activities or assistance directed to **children of all ages**: infants, youths, and teens, through local youth groups, community child oriented events, homes for troubled teens, local child care programs, and the local Department of Children & Families.

In-Club - activities directed to all **club members' families**, (not just the members themselves) and/or assistance given for members' families in financial need.

Please use the Homelife Department Questionnaire as your guide. This is not to say you must do projects for the specific questions given, but it will give you an idea of which projects belong in each of the four divisions. For example: a social event sponsored by your club and held for Senior Citizens at the local Senior Center belongs under **Gerontology**. A collection of items for a family whose house burned down belongs under **Community Living**. An award given by your club to a local teen for their volunteerism belongs under **Youth**.

Remember that the word "shelter" in Homelife means a **homeless shelter**, which belongs under the **Community Living** division, and **not** a battered woman's shelter (Current Affairs.)

Remember that the words "group home" usually refers to a home for the mentally challenged, which would belong under the Health Department, in the Mental Health Division. A "home" in Homelife means a **home for teens in crisis** such as those who, temporarily, cannot live at their own home (for various reasons), or a home for teen unwed mothers. Those projects would fall under the **Youth** division. ***If** the home were for kids with drug addictions, however, it would belong under the Health Department, in the Substance Abuse Division!

Remember that the words "**convalescent home, nursing home, and rest home**" all refer to projects you might do under the **Gerontology** division of Homelife.

Remember that Homelife projects done strictly **for club members' families** go under the **In-Club** division, but if your members collect items to be given away to a shelter, it is a community service project and does not belong under In-Club!

****Please call the State Chair if you have any doubts or questions about where to categorize projects under the four divisions!** Please refer to the following pages for goals and project ideas for each of the four divisions of the Homelife Department.

HOMELIFE DEPARTMENT GOALS & PROJECT IDEAS

Community Living Division:

The goals for this division: To encourage **family** togetherness within the community. To give support and/or assistance, of various types, to **families** who are in need of extra help because of financial difficulties. To promote community awareness of local **family** service agencies and support groups so finding the help isn't difficult, and to assist those agencies whenever possible.

Project ideas:

- Adopt and support a needy family
- Prepare and donate meals to local soup kitchen
- Work with town administrators to address community needs
- Help produce a community calendar
- Provide holiday food baskets for needy families
- Sponsor a community picnic held on town green
- Donate wish list items to local homeless shelter
- Winter coat collection for homeless, solicit local dry cleaners to assist
- Produce and distribute a local "Places-to-Go" guide for families
- Contribute funds toward a needy family's winter heating costs
- Sponsor a town wide Christmas tree lighting
- Encourage restaurants, bakeries, and community organizations to donate their leftover foods to the local soup kitchens
- Initiate a fuel bank for needy families and solicit local businesses to donate fund-
- Sponsor a non-holiday social at a homeless shelter
- Bake and deliver cookies to shut-ins
- Have a town wide collection of socks to donate to a homeless shelter
- Have a tag sale fund-raiser to purchase gift certificates for needy families.
- Donate leftover tag sale items to a shelter or Goodwill
- Work with your local library to arrange a book lending program for shut-ins
- Provide refreshments for local community center's family events

Gerontology Division:

The goals for this division: To work with local Senior Centers and nursing homes to provide social opportunities, safety checks, workshops on various subjects, etc. for the **senior citizens** of the community. To recognize local **senior citizens** for their community service, and utilize their help whenever possible. To support local programs which show value for and provide genuine caring for **all senior citizens**.

Project Ideas:

- Have monthly Bingo games at a nursing home, or Senior Center
- Sponsor a Senior Citizens Prom - use local school music departments for entertainment
- Have holiday socials at a Senior Center or nursing home
- Provide birthday celebrations and/or gifts for nursing/rest home residents
- Adopt a senior citizen or couple
- Send cards to nursing home residents 'on a regular basis
- Invite seniors to teach crafts at a club workshop
- Donate craft supplies to the local Senior Center

Revised August 2008

Section 13 - C

Page 1 of 3

HOMELIFE DEPARTMENT GOALS & PROJECT IDEAS

- Sponsor a craft workshop for seniors
- Have a sing-a-long with seniors
- Collect used books to donate to the Senior Center
- Have a collection of personal items to donate to a local nursing home
- Participate in local rides or meals for seniors program
- Provide decorations for a senior center or nursing home for Older Americans Month (N4ay)
- Host a summer picnic for the seniors in the community
- Sponsor a Senior Citizens Awareness Day in your community
- Donate food baskets to senior citizen shut-ins
- Go Christmas Caroling at local nursing home(s)
- Have a program to read to the elderly at nursing home(s)
- Arrange for a Therapy Dog program at a local nursing home
- Provide fuel assistance for a senior citizen or couple
- Host a Card Party for the seniors of the community
- Provide information to seniors on available support groups

Youth Division:

The goals for this division: To provide activities and support for all the **children** of the community- infants, youths, and teens. To give assistance to **children** who are in need through donations of goods & services. To recognize and encourage **youth/teen** volunteerism, and utilize it in community events. To promote awareness of local service agencies, support groups, and quality programs which are available for **children**.

Project Ideas:

- Sponsor community holiday parties for children
- Donate wish list items to a home for teens in crisis
- Santa letters to children of the community
- Sponsor a youth athletic team
- Give out a Youth & Teen Volunteer award
- Produce and distribute a "Rainy Day Activities" booklet
- Donate clothes, food, toiletries, etc. to needy children
- Sponsor or work with a town wide Toys for Tots program
- Donate items and/or funds to the WIC program (Women, Infants, & Children)
- Promote community awareness of children's rights for the Week of the Young Child (April 19)
- Donate wish list items to a Girl/Boy Scout Troop
- Sponsor a poster/essay contest on "What My Family Means To Me"
- Organize a children's Winter Festival for winter school vacation
- Distribute information on summer camp opportunities for children
- Work with local Big Brothers/Big Sisters program
- Sponsor an American Red Cross "Home Alone" Program
- Sponsor an American Red Cross Baby-sitting Course
- Support the programs of local teen/youth centers

HOMELIFE DEPARTMENT GOALS & PROJECT IDEAS

- Sponsor a community apple or pumpkin picking venture
- Host a Breakfast w/Santa or Breakfast w/Easter Bunny event for community children
- Put on a Halloween Carnival for the children of the community

In-Club Division:

The goals for this division: To educate **members** on local social service agencies for families, children, and senior citizens. To educate **members** on everyday life management skills, (Ex. parenting tips, holiday planning, caring for the elderly, etc.) To provide activities or social events for **member's families**, including grandparents and children, and/or to provide assistance to **member's families who are in financial need**. [Please do **not** include projects which fall under the "sunshine" area in the Retention & Unity Division of the Membership Department.]

Project Ideas:

- Donate food, clothing, or household items to a member's family in financial need
- Donate winter heating costs to a member's family in financial need
- Plan holiday parties for member's children
- Print parenting tips in the club newsletter
- Plan parent/child socials for member's families, Ex. Mother/Daughter Tea, Father/Son Bowling, Mother/Son - Father/Daughter Dance, (any generation can be the parent or the child)
- Hold children's playgroup meetings for member's families
- Give monthly handouts on the local -service agencies for families, seniors, or children
- Have a speaker on Caring for Aging Parents
- Have a speaker on Talking to Your Teen
- Have speakers from the local outreach programs for families, seniors, & children
- Organize a summer picnic and/or holiday party for member's families Invite member's parents to volunteer at club events
- Invite member's parents to teach a craft at a club workshop
- Encourage members to have a "Family TV Shut-off Week" '(then find out how many stuck with it!)
- Provide members with a list of "Places to Go" for family outings
- Re-print the CJW Homelife Resources list in your club newsletter
- Promote awareness of local childcare options, and State Licensing regulations
- Provide members with a list of area summer camp programs for children
- Invite member's children to write poems for the club newsletter for Mother's/Father's Day

HOMELIFE RESOURCES

COMMUNITY LIVING DIVISION:

<p>Administrative Services Department 165 Capital Ave., Hartford, CT 06106 Human Resources – General Information 860-566-2501 Customer Service Center 860-566-2466 www.das.state.ct.us</p>	<p>CT Meals on Wheels (VNA Health Care) 1-800-862-1551 www.mealcall.org/meals-on-wheels/ct</p>
<p>CT Association for Human Services 110 Bartholomew Ave., Suite 4030, Hartford CT 06106-2201 860-951-2212 www.caahs.org</p>	<p>CT Permanent Commission on the Status of Women 18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106-1628 General Information: 860-240-8314 www.cga.ct.gov/pcsw</p>
<p>CT Community Services Infoline - 1-800-203-1234</p>	<p>Governor's Information Bureau 165 Capital Ave, Hartford, CT 1-800-842-2220</p>
<p>CT Department of Social Services 25 Sigourney St., Hartford, CT 06106</p> <p>General Information 860-424-5029</p> <p>Adult Services Community Services & Grants 860-424-5852</p> <p>General Assistance 800-842-2159</p> <p>Energy & Weatherization Services 800-842-1132</p> <p>Family Services Housing & Grants 860-424-5578 Family Support 860-424-5540 Family Mentoring/New Direction 800-243-3684</p> <p>Refugee Assistance 800-842-2159</p> <p>Public Information 800-842-1508</p>	<p>Human Rights & Opportunities Commission Administrative Office 90 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106 860-566-3350</p> <p>United Way of CT 1344 Silas Deane Highway Rocky Hill, CT 860-571-7500 or 2-1-1 www.infoline.org</p> <p>CT Foodbank P.O. Box 8686 New Haven, CT 06531 203-469-5000 www.ctfoodbank.org</p> <p>Foodshare 450 Woodland Ave. Bloomfield, CT 06002-1342 860-286-9999 Fax: 860-286-7860 http://Community.foodshare.org/ NETCOMMUNITY</p>

Revised August 2008

Section 13 - D

Page 1 of 3

HOMELIFE RESOURCES

GERONTOLOGY DIVISION:

CT Commission on Aging 25 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06106 860-424-5360	CT Department of Social Services 25 Sigourney St. Hartford, CT 06106 866-218-6631 www.ct.gov/agingservices
Elderly Services 800-443-9946	Community Services & Grants, Elder Rights, Elderly Support 860-424-5274
CT Partnership for Long Term Care 800-547-3443	CT Home Care Program for Elders 800-445-5394 www.ct.gov/dss
CT Protective Services for the Elderly 203-597-4142 www.ct.gov/dss/cwp	

YOUTH DIVISION:

Boy Scouts of America, CT Council 60 Darlin St., East Hartford, CT 860-289-6669 www.scouting.com www.ctrivers.org	CT Valley Girl Scout Council, Inc. 340 Washington Street, Hartford, CT 06106 860-522-0163 www.girlscouts-ct.org
CT Department of Children & Families 505 Hudson St., Hartford, CT 06106	Child Abuse Hotline, (CARELINE) 800-842-2288
Licensing & Quality Assurance 860-550-6385 Information Services 860-550-6669 General Information 860-566-2497 www.jud.ct.gov/crimevictim	CT Office of the Child Advocate 18-20 Trinity St., Hartford, CT 06106 860-566-2106 Information - 860-994-0939 www.ct.gov/pca
CT Department of Social Services Child Care 800-811-6141	CT Office of the Attorney General 110 Sherman St., Hartford, CT 06106
CT Youth Services Association 330 Main St., Hartford, CT 06106	CT Child Support Information Hotline 800-597-4142

Revised August 2008

Section 13 - D

Page 2 of 3

HOMELIFE RESOURCES

860-659-5586

www.ctyouthservices.org

OTHER:

Local numbers are listed in your phone book for many of the following (plus much more):

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Goodwill
- Local Churches
- Meals on Wheels
- Nursing/Rest Homes
- Parenting Support Groups
- Salvation Army
- Senior Centers
- Visiting Nurses Association
- YMCA's/YWCA's
- Youth Athletic Teams

Your local phone book is a wonderful source of information.

The front pages usually include:

- Calendar of Events
- CT Activities for Children & Families
- Community Services (infoline)
- Topics & Phone numbers
- Senior Citizen Programs

Also be sure to look in the Blue Pages

- Government & Municipal Guide
- Look under CT-State of or your local town

For Homelife information in the Yellow Pages, look under:

- Human Service Agencies
- Senior Citizen Service Agencies
- Social Service Agencies

CJW HOMELIFE JOB DESCRIPTION

GOAL: To provide clubs with project ideas to enhance the lives of those in our state who are in need of extra assistance because of financial difficulties.

Job Responsibilities:

1. Organize state-wide food drives for state food banks.
2. Submit monthly newsletter articles for the CJW Junior Bulletin.
3. Prepare a handout for Fall & Spring Conference, CJW September Board meeting & CJW March Board meeting.
4. Organize a workshop for the September Board meeting. This workshop can contain project ideas, discussion of club projects, hands-on training or review of past successes. This workshop should include a handout of workshop contents.
5. Assist clubs by answering their inquiries regarding this department, if you are unable to answer a question contact the CJW Director for help.
6. Attend events hosted by clubs that pertain to this department if available.
7. Judge club reports submitted in March. Submit a list of department awards, including the "Helping Hands Award", to the CJW Report Writing Judging Committee.
8. Organize state-wide food drives for state food banks.
9. Refer to **General Information Section 10 - H & I** for other responsibilities of CJW Board of Director members.