

## **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES SAUGERTIES AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**

**Food Pantry** – Currently serving over 400 families. The pantry is supported by donations of food and money from the member churches, their congregations, and members of the Saugerties area community.

**The Emergency Finger Fund**<sup>1</sup> - The fund provides emergency help to those in need with items such as rent, electric, fuel, car repairs, travel, medication, and medical expenses. The Finger Fund is supported mainly by the proceeds of an annuity established with a gift from the sale of the Finger property. It also accepts donations from individuals and businesses.

**The Birthday Booth** – Provides birthday parties and gifts to underprivileged children, based on need and referral from the school nurse or a church. They have provided twelve such parties already this year. The parties consist of decorations, party favors, cake mix and frosting mix by gifts of birthday items and money from member churches, their congregations and the community.

**The Christmas Toy Store** – Collects and distributes Christmas gifts (toys, clothing, etc.) for those in need. Items are donated by member churches and congregants as well as member of the community. Each year there is enough left over to donate to Toys for Tots as well.

**The Well** – The Well is a community thrift shop. Items are collected from many sources in the community and sold. The money raised is used to help with more long term needs like rent, electric, and food. Clients have to apply first to Social Services and be turned down and then go through an application process with the Well. The Well also has a free side where the needy can obtain free clothing, etc. The Well is set up to be self-supporting and due to its great management has been so.

**Church World Service C.R.O.P.** – C. R.O.P. stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. The Council sponsors an annual walk to raise funds for C.R.O.P. which provides help with sustainable agriculture, clean water, medicine, and blankets in Third World Countries. Also 25% of the funds raised locally are used to fight hunger in Saugerties. Church World Service is comprised of 25 member denominations.

**Other Outreaches Support By the Council** – The Soup Kitchen at Atonement Lutheran Church, the Saugerties Skate Park.

**Other Activities** – Non-Denominational Vacation Bible School for the entire community, Advent walk through the Village, Lenten Services for combined churches.

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<sup>1</sup> Established based on the donated proceeds from the sale of the Finger property. The money comes from the interest on an annuity they established.