

Sandy Hook Relief Information

Name of Organization: **Newtown Youth and Family Services**

1. What is the approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges that your organization has received to date in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy?

Approximately 1 million

2. Will these funds be used solely for the Sandy Hook tragedy? If not, approximately what portion will be used for relief for victims and what other purposes, and in what proportions, will funds be used for?

Newtown Youth and Family Services is still assessing the needs of the community and the desires of the Newtown School District. Funding thus far has been used to hire 4 full time staff to accommodate for the increase in mental health services needed, provide support groups for families, parents, school-age students, and school staff. NYFS needed to rent more space in our current building to house the additional staff we hired and to retro-fit phone/internet. We are busy developing a long term plan to continue the counseling we are offering in house and to increasing FREE programming in the community for youths. These programs are: mentoring at the high school/middle school, academic support at the intermediate school, support group for divorcing families, providing a social worker at the Town's Recreation day camp for the summer, bullying prevention in the elementary schools, enhancement of our job bank program and a youth and teen social skills club for autistic individuals. With a donation in the name of a child killed at Sandy Hook, our plans are to construct and license a child play room in our agency for play therapy. This would require special remodeling, furniture, equipment and a child play specialist. In addition, we have just advertised for additional clinical staff, and an APRN, to help with client medication management.

3. Approximately how much has your organization spent to date related to the Sandy Hook tragedy?

At this time we have spent approximately \$274,180. These costs include hiring additional staff, staff increase from the immediate 2 weeks after the tragedy, acquiring more agency space, operational costs, financial assistance to families that do not qualify for Office of Victim Services support, staff trauma training, extension of our licensing and insurance coverage.

4. What services has your organization provided to those affected by the Sandy Hook tragedy? What populations or class of victims are being served by your organization in response to the Sandy Hook Tragedy? What services does it expect to provide in the future?

Newtown Youth and Family Services is still assessing the needs of the community and the desires of the Newtown School District. NYFS had been providing emergency walk in crisis counseling since 12/14/12 to anyone in the community. We were lucky enough to have additional locally credentialed clinicians assist us around the clock 24/7 from 12/14/12-1/1/13. Individuals and or families have been screened and assessed for best of level care and have been either referred to our immediate clinical staff or referred to a local provider in the Newtown area or an appropriate play therapy group. Our agency was designated by the First Selectwoman and the Town of Newtown School District as the primary mental health agency in the area. In addition we have set up a community resource link on our webpage to disseminate all the information that we receive from state/local agencies in regards to events, activities, support groups and funding.

We are currently working with the school district and the National Center for Child Trauma to help formulate the immediate and long term plans of the schools. In addition we are currently running support programs in the schools for staff. Many of the staff from these schools as well as at Sandy Hook staff have worked together in the school district at multiple locations previous to 12/14/12 and were close colleagues of those lost at Sandy Hook. Thus far, we have been able to fill all requests made by the school district and will continue to support the schools/town as we are needed.

Lastly we are offering bereavement groups here at NYFS for parents that lost a child or loved one; support groups for teens that lost a "friend", (many high schoolers babysat for many of the children killed), a grieving dads support group, and a parent support group.

5. Has your organization provided funding to other organizations for purposes related to the Sandy Hook tragedy? If so, which organizations have received those funds and what is the approximate dollar amount provided to them? How does your organization determine the need for funding?

We have not provided funding to others organizations. We are providing services for FREE to the community. We have worked with the local youth agencies and sporting groups to provide guidance and support after 12/14/12. In addition, we are working with the Newtown School District to provide staff support at various schools, see question #4 for more details.

6. Has your organization provided, or does it intend to provide, direct financial assistance to individuals, families or businesses for Sandy Hook relief? If so, what is the approximate dollar amount that your organization has provided to date and approximately how much direct financial assistance does it expect to provide in the future? How does your organization determine the need for assistance?

The funding we received will be used for the additional staff we have hired, future

trainings we are providing for our staff and local mental health providers, and financial aid assistance for clients. Our financial aid assistance is based on the United Way scale that we have used in the past. We offer financial assistance/sliding scale to all individuals/families that qualify. We serve 16 local communities besides Newtown.

7. Does your organization have a plan in place on how to use any surplus funds not spent for purposes related to the Sandy Hook tragedy? If so, please describe that plan.

We are still formulating our long term plan. Providing mental health counseling is the number one priority. We are still hiring more mental health clinicians to assist with the increase of clients we are servicing. In addition to the mental health support we offer, we will continue our support groups and are youth programming. Refocusing children back into a routine is essential and we are developing more youth programs and programming for children/youth adults on the autism spectrum.

Candice Bohr, Executive Director

April 12, 2013

Name and title of representative

Date

Please email this document with your responses to Nancy.Santoro@ct.gov by April 12, 2013.

You may obtain an electronic copy of this document by emailing a request to

<http://www.ct.gov/ag/lib/ag/charities/sandyhookfundraising-web.doc> or by emailing a request to

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