Tioga County Rural Ministry

A Hand In Deed, Serving the Need

AN INVITATION TO PARTNERSHIP

Contact

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Contents

Tioga County Rural Ministry
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03. OUR HISTORY

04. MEET OUR TEAM

05. SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

06. MAKING A DIFFERENCE

07. SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

Our History

IIn 1978 the Catholic Diocese of Rochester invited two Sisters of Mercy to traverse Tioga County to discern the greatest needs of low-income residents. After traversing the County and speaking with a wide variety of area leaders and agencies, they ascertained that food security was the greatest need.

In July of 1978, Tioga County Rural Ministry was born. The sisters began collecting food for a pantry in St. Patrick's Convent; they and other volunteers delivered food to needy families and visited the sick. A business office was set up in the basement of St. Patrick's Rectory. Later, all operations moved to 60 North Avenue (the present WEBO Station site) until that space, too, was outgrown.

In time, services expanded to the building of ramps (county-wide) for those with a medical need. Also, at Christmas time gifts of new clothing were provided to all children in the County whose families registered by the appropriate deadline. In September of 2009, due to additional increased services to a wider population, TCRM moved to 143 North Avenue to a much larger building that allowed better space for the pantry, food storage, office space and room for the Thanksgiving and Christmas food programs.

While this venture was initially Catholic in nature, the sisters, in 1978, quickly realized the need to broaden the base of support if residents were to be well-served. Other religious denominations were invited to participate in the initiative and that type of communal support and outreach continues to this day.

In October of 2024 TCRM moved into our new building, the Neighborhood Depot. The building is situated safely above the 500-year flood zone. This building will serve as an emergency recovery center; it will enhance programs and services for nonprofits at a central location (146 Central Ave.) in our community for people in need. Tenants include Racker, United Way, TCRM and one or two other entities who will share services and thus reduce overhead costs.

Our Mission:



We aspire to be a sign of Jesus' presence by serving the unmet needs of the poor, sick and elderly of Tioga County. By calling others forth to an awareness of their responsibility in justice to answer these needs, we provide opportunities for them to respond through this ministry. We aim to manifest God's love and mercy in the present era.

Meet Our Team



Sister Mary O'Brien
Executive Director



Galen Morehead
Outreach Services Director



Rachel Cron
Office Manager



Deborah Smith
Bookkeeper

A dedicated and close-knit staff collaborates seamlessly to fulfill the organization's mission of providing essential resources to the Tioga County community. Despite being a small team, their collective commitment to serving the needs of the impoverished, sick, and elderly in the region has created a highly efficient and impactful operation. The staff and volunteers work tirelessly to ensure the provision of vital resources such as financial assistance, access to the food pantry, and distribution of hygiene products. Their cohesive approach involves each member playing a crucial role, from coordinating outreach programs to managing client interactions with empathy and compassion.

In the heart of their efforts is a shared passion for making a positive difference in the lives of those facing challenges. The staff maximizes its resources and leverages community partnerships to extend their reach and impact. Their collaboration extends beyond traditional roles, fostering an environment where every team member's unique skill and perspective contribute to the holistic support provided to the Tioga County community.

At Tioga County Rural Ministry, we recognize that our volunteers are the backbone of everything we do. Their unwavering dedication and commitment amplify our ability to meet the diverse needs of our community. We accomplish so much because we have a large, strong, and consistent volunteer base. Through their selfless contributions, our volunteers play an integral role in ensuring that our services are accessible and impactful. Their time, energy, and compassion exemplify the spirit of community service, making a lasting and positive impact on the well-being of the individuals and families we serve.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Unlock valuable brand exposure and community engagement by exploring sponsorship opportunities with Tioga County Rural Ministry (TCRM). TCRM hosts a range of events throughout the year, providing sponsors with diverse platforms to connect with the local community.

TCRM offers a diverse range of services aimed at making a positive impact in our community. Our key services include:

- Food Pantry: Providing essential food resources to those in need.
- Handicap Ramp Construction/Repair: Building and repairing ramps to enhance accessibility.
- Farmers' Market Initiative: Empowering families with a $100 line of credit to use at the farmer's market.
- Spring Cleanup for Seniors: Assisting Seniors with needed yardwork
- August Free Food GiveAway: Distributing free food to the community during the month of August.
- Back to School Support: Offering $200 each to teens for the purchase of clothing and shoes for the upcoming school year.
- Thanksgiving and Christmas Food: Providing everything needed for a holiday meal.
- Toy Distribution (Toys for Tots): Ensuring children receive toys for Christmas.
- Mapleridge Ranch Summer Camp Scholarships: Sending youth to a week-long overnight summer camp for a memorable and enriching experience.

At TCRM we are committed to addressing a variety of needs within our community, fostering a spirit of support and empowerment.



Sponsorship Highlights

In 2025, our financial assistance program helped 397 families with rental assistance, auto repairs, utility bills, and much more! This amounted to: $172,374.69

In 2025, we served 641 unique families a total of 3,223 times in our food pantry.

Our Toy Distribution helped over 150 children to have a very Merry Christmas!

In 2025, we assisted 8 families with building handicap ramps/repairs and another 40 teens with Back to School clothes.

Making a Difference



Our Christmas Toy Distribution helps make the season bright.



Our volunteers build ramps to improve accessibility to homes.



Your local farmers and gardeners supply us with fresh produce to share.



Families can receive financial assistance to buy school clothes.



ABOVE: TCRM provides vouchers for food sold at the Owego Farmers' Market.



ABOVE: Our August Food Give-Away.







FAR LEFT: JP Morgan Chase donated to our Soap for Hope drive.

CENTER: Tri-Town Insurance employees aided our Spring Cleanup for seniors.

LEFT: Grand Union shoppers gave generously.

SCAN QR CODE TO PAY VIA PAYPAL, VENMO, OR BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD

Sponsorship Packages

Food Pantry Sponsor $5,000.00 12-Month Term	Premier Sponsor $2,500.00 12-Month Term	Gold Sponsor $1,000.00 12-Month Term
• A large 9X12 plaque prominently displayed in the TCRM pantry • Exclusively included on all social media posts, branding materials, and collateral related to the food pantry • All benefits of a "Premier Sponsor"	• Prominent logo placement on all marketing collateral (except food pantry material) • Featured recognition at all TCRM events/fundraisers • Acknowledgement in press releases • Opportunities to table at any TCRM event or fundraiser • Prominently featured on the website as a key partner • Individual recognition on social media	• Logo placement on all marketing collateral (except food pantry material) • Featured recognition at 1 TCRM event or fundraiser of your choosing • Opportunities to table at 1 TCRM event or fundraiser • Featured on the website as a partner • Recognition as a partner on social media

Silver Sponsor $500.00 12-Month Term	Bronze Sponsor $250.00 12-Month Term	Honorary Support $150.00 12-Month Term
• Logo placement on select marketing collateral • Featured recognition at 1 TCRM event or fundraiser of your choosing • Featured on the website as a partner • Recognition as a partner on social media	• Logo placement on select marketing collateral • Featured on the website as a partner • Recognition as a partner on social media	• Featured on the website as a partner • Recognition as a partner on social media

Please detach and return to TCRM

☐ **YES, I'd love to be a sponsor!**

Sponsorship Package Chosen:

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All checks can be made out to Tioga County Rural Ministry and mailed to 146 Central Avenue, Suite 2, Owego, NY 13827