

## **Kent Social Services**

**Diane Albert, Director**

The Department of Social Services increased its client base from 67 clients to 270 clients. A sample of resources used for financial assistance and other services provided follows: Berkshire Taconic Foundation: \$6200 for rental assistance, fuel expenses, emergency repairs and assistance with debt acquired due to cancer treatments through its Jane Lloyd Fund.

The Community Action Committee of Danbury:

Energy assistance totaling \$11,110 for deliverable fuels as well as the cost of electric and wood for primary heating.

United Way's Back to School Dress for Success:

19 children received backpacks, 2 complete outfits including shoes, socks, underwear, a winter coat, school supplies, and health care products for back to school in September 2006.

Radio Station WQQQ in Lakeville:

33 families received complete turkey dinners for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. These families also received pies, courtesy of Kent School for both holidays.

The Social Service department in July 2006 opened the doors of a weekly food bank, renamed Kent's Free Market. It serves a variety of fresh produce, frozen meats and vegetables, canned staple items as well as day old bread from 2 sources. The client base has grown from roughly 20 families to over 50 families in one year. It continues to grow still today. The food bank provides an avenue to not only feed people on a weekly basis, but has created many opportunities for community service including the communities 3 private schools. The food bank is a space where dignity is maintained, generosity of spirit grows, and fellowship between those who use it has blossomed.

As the town's Director of Social Services, I have developed and fostered strong working relationships with many outside resources to help facilitate creative solutions for the many needs of the townspeople of Kent. These needs are met with efficiency, anonymity, and heart.