



TOWN OF FREEPORT

General Assistance Office

30 Main Street, Freeport ME 04032
ph: 865-4743 x120 fax: 865-0929

MEMO TO: Peter Joseph, Town Manager
Christine Wolfe, Town Clerk
FROM: Johanna Hanselman, General Assistance Administrator
SUBJECT: Anne Dorsey Loth Donation
DATE: November 20, 2019

Anne Dorsey Loth has bequeathed an incredibly generous gift of \$76,750 “to fund a discretionary fund for the benefit of the residents of the Town of Freeport, to be used for individual residents of the town who need some type of assistance and the decision as to the type and the amount of the benefit shall be in the sole discretion of the Director of the program.”

Anne Dorsey Loth and her husband John moved to Freeport in 1960. They made their home on Bartol Island, cherishing the beautiful view of the Harraseeket River and enjoying the natural activities surrounding the ebb and flow of the tide. During her remarkable career, Anne worked as a social worker, an assistant professor teaching social welfare, directed programs which worked closely with low and moderate income households and the elderly, and even did a stint as the Executive Director for Freeport Community Services for a few years during the 1980s. After her time at FCS, Anne worked as an Adoption Consultant and began a private practice as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, focusing on inter-personal issues, women’s issues and alcoholism.

Given both the generosity of this gift and the clear convictions held by Anne as evidenced by her life’s work, a trust fund will be established in Anne’s name, with the attached guidelines to ensure that her wishes will be fulfilled. Her gift of cash will be safely invested with the earned income to be used annually by the General Assistance Director, allowing her gift to continue to benefit town residents in need in perpetuity.

On behalf of the town and all current and future Freeport residents whose lives will be touched by this gift, I respectfully request that the Freeport Town Council accept this donation.

One sub-share to the Social Services Department of the Town of Freeport, Freeport, Maine, to fund a discretionary fund for the benefit of the residents of the Town of Freeport, to be used for individual residents of the town who need some type of assistance, and the decision as to the type and the amount of the benefit shall be in the sole discretion of the Director of the program.

ANNE DORSEY LOTH ASSISTANCE FUND

Established December 3, 2019

PURPOSE

The Anne Dorsey Loth Assistance Fund was established in December, 2019 through a generous gift to the Town as bequeathed by Anne Dorsey Loth, a former Freeport resident and dedicated social worker. This gift of cash was bequeathed “to fund a discretionary fund for the benefit of the residents of the Town of Freeport, to be used for individual residents of the town who need some type of assistance, and the decision as to the type and the amount of the benefit shall be in the sole discretion of the Director of the Program.” This gift of cash will be safely invested with the earned income to be used annually by the General Assistance Director, and an annual report shall be presented to the Municipal Officers of the Town of Freeport.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

This fund is intended to assist residents of the Town of Freeport when their critical needs cannot be met on their own or by any other existing programs or resources and when the inability to meet these needs may compromise the health or welfare of the household or interfere in their ability to sustain a reasonable level of existence. Eligibility for a grant from the Anne Dorsey Loth Assistance Fund shall rely on an applicant’s ability to demonstrate that he or she is a resident of the Town of Freeport, Maine and that a grant is needed and will be used to assist them in meeting their essential needs.

1. Requests for assistance must be based on documentation which demonstrates that the applicant’s welfare is compromised or at risk and that the applicant did not knowingly or illegally put the household at risk. Circumstances leading to need would include but not be limited to situations such as loss of job or reduction in hours; medical emergency; necessary car repairs; or other unanticipated situations not deliberately caused by the applicant which create a financial hardship.
2. Applications for a grant from the Anne Dorsey Loth Assistance Fund may be made by appearance in person at the office of the General Assistance Administrator at the Freeport Town Hall. Alternative accommodations will be made if the applicant is physically unable to appear. The Freeport General Assistance Administrator, acting in their capacity as the director of social services of the Town of Freeport, administers the Anne Dorsey Loth Assistance Fund. Applicants must fill out the General Assistance application and exhaust any eligibility for GA or other governmental or assistance programs prior to the determination of eligibility. The Administrator shall retain the right to request documentation to support a claim for a grant from the Fund

3. Assistance will be provided with a maximum benefit of \$2,000 within any one year period.
4. The amount of benefit may exceed the maximum if determined necessary by the General Assistance Administrator and only upon review and approval of the Town Manager.

DEFINITIONS

The following definitions are established to assist in determining an applicant's eligibility qualifications.

Residency – physically resides within the geographical boundaries of the Town of Freeport.

Need– the condition whereby a household's income and resources fall below their ability to meet their basic needs on their own or by the assistance of any other existing program or resources and when the inability to meet these needs may compromise the health or welfare of the household or interfere in their ability to sustain a reasonable level of existence.

Essential Needs - Food, clothing, shelter, fuel, electricity, potable water, non-elective essential medical services as prescribed by a physician, nonprescription drugs, telephone service, car repairs, home repairs, childcare, property taxes when a tax lien placed on the property threatens the loss of the applicant's place of residence, and any other commodity or service determined essential by the administrator.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a resident of the Town of Freeport.
- Must not have received assistance from the fund within a one year period from the last date assistance was granted.

CONFIDENTIALITY

In the administration of the Anne Dorsey Loth Assistance Fund, the General Assistance Administrator will act with all due regard to the sensitivity of the information furnished by applicants and will maintain a degree of confidentiality with respect to the information furnished by or relating to applicants. However, applicants should be aware that the Town of Freeport is a public agency whose records are public records which may be subject to public inspection in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine.

FINANCIAL LIMITS OF GRANT

Grants made for a single year from the Anne Dorsey Loth Assistance Fund shall be determined annually based upon the estimated income anticipated to be earned for the year and no more than 33% of any carry forward of unexpended income from

prior years. Such limits will be calculated annually by the Finance Director of the Town of Freeport and General Assistance Director.

In addition, in an extraordinary circumstance, it may be determined by the General Assistance Administrator, with the approval of the Town Manager, that a portion of the principal can be used if the estimated income anticipated for the year is not sufficient to alleviate the needs of the approved applicants.