



The NH Mutual Aid Relief Fund is a grassroots effort of working-class people who believe that direct action and solidarity are the best ways to meet the material and social needs of our community.

We recognize that housing and food insecurity—as well as the barriers to mental and physical wellness—are due to a larger system of artificial scarcity inherent to capitalism. To combat the gratuitous violence endemic to capitalism, white supremacy, and cis-hetero patriarchy, we come together in solidarity to freely distribute material goods that have been kept from our neighbors—goods that are necessary for survival. We understand that the equitable futures we are working towards are defined by the choices we collectively make today. Through helping our neighbors today, we hope to build a community able to collectively imagine and create a more equitable tomorrow.

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid is the idea that people should try to help each other as directly and mutually as possible. This means without too much complexity or too many hoops to jump through and that the assistance and communication shouldn't go in only one direction, but should involve collaboration. Mutual aid may appear like charity on the outside, but it is done with the understanding that it is done in solidarity. Mutual aid is inherently anti capitalist, builds dual power, is anti-racist, anti-homophobic, anti-sexist, anti-transphobic, anti-ageist, anti-ableist, and working all the time towards a fully equitable society. In a society where basic needs are denied to you and care is hidden behind multiple bureaucratic walls and means-testing, mutual aid is a radical act of caring for each other as we work to build a new world together.

Trust

A key component of the work we do and the interactions we have is trust: trust in each other and our abilities, trust from the people coming to us that we will continue to be there for them, and trust that when people say they are in need of something that they truly are in need. The people coming to us trust that we will listen to them. They trust that we will do what we can to keep them safe while we are present; we trust that they will do the same. Maintaining their trust means doing things that may not seem easy to understand at first, such as not speaking to press, not taking photos, and not calling the police. The people coming to us are trusting that we will not share information about them they do not want shared, as this could jeopardize both their physical and emotional safety.

It is our belief that communities built on trust can take care of themselves, and that mutual aid is the seed of such communities. We care for us. We support us. We will grow networks of communities through directly addressing needs, without concern for the needs or wants of the wealthy and powerful. We believe in survival without guilt.

Community

We are helping our communities because we are part of them and want to see them thrive. This means that we are actively seeking connections and becoming closer as a group internally as well as externally with the people who come to us. We encourage donors who drop off supplies to speak to their neighbors and get to know the needs and actions of the community. An interest in building community is a must for any potential volunteer or member. Don't make assumptions about our neighbors; be respectful and nonjudgmental. Meet folks where they are at. We can practice this by allowing others to speak without interruption. By listening to marginalized voices. Remembering that when someone feels heard, they begin to trust, and they are able to flourish.

No Prejudice

We are making a welcoming space for our vulnerable neighbors and ourselves to move beyond the prejudices embedded into our service delivery systems. These systems reflect the prejudices inherent to the broader ruling system built on unceded and stolen land. We are making a space of free expression of those parts of ourselves we are born with and those paths we have chosen or felt compelled to walk. We must remain vigilant in keeping people safe on a personal level and addressing issues of prejudice as a group. No anti-Blackness, racism, transphobia, homophobia, misogyny, ableism, ageism, nor any hate speech will be tolerated at the Free Store, on any call, or in any other setting, from a member of NHMARF.

Horizontal Organization

We want to empower all of our neighbors to participate on equal terms. Participatory democracy means purposefully liberating ourselves from bosses, leaders, masters and rulers. We make decisions using the experience and wisdom of everyone who wishes to contribute. We respect the boundaries of each other and of our vulnerable neighbors. We all share our feedback and hear feedback in turn. Simply put - don't be a boss. This is another feature of mutual aid that differentiates from charity.

Anti-capitalism

Mutual aid is inherently anti-capitalist. The process of addressing people's needs directly, without making the aid be earned, is anti-capitalist. Breaking down manufactured barriers to people's survival is anti-capitalist. While NHMARF is not a political group in that we do not endorse specific parties or policies nor get involved in political groups, mutual aid is a political action, and that action has a purpose. Our purpose is expressed in all our actions.

Direct Aid

The thread tying together everyone in NHMARF is that we get work done. We want to directly aid people and work to provide that aid consistently. The work is the most important thing, not meetings nor planning and our workflow allows autonomy to allow for the work to get done. This work builds community; it is the result of our trust, and of us taking time out of our lives for something that does not make money. The work is the culmination of everything else we do. We are here for the community. it is critical to that trust that nobody uses NHMARF or their connection with the houseless community to further their own agenda.



**DONATE
NOW!**

