Heather, a mother of three in her late thirties, asked her son what he wanted for Christmas.

"A new roof," he answered. For the past few years the teenager has been dealing with water dripping into his room and ruining his belongings. The leaky roof has made life very uncomfortable for everyone in his family.

At first his request seemed impossible for the struggling mother. But with the help North Hills Community Outreach and someone she has never met, he got what he wanted.

Heather first came to NHCO about 13 years ago. After the birth of her third child she suffered several complications, including a stroke that caused brain damage. She was unable to work and started using the food pantry at our former Bellevue location. She also took part in our Holiday Toy and Back to School shops. These are two of our sharing projects, programs where donated items are collected then distributed to those in need.

"That’s a Godsend right there. They (NHCO) give you all the stuff your kids need," Heather added.

During last year’s Holiday Toy Shop, she told Vicki, NHCO’s Sharing Projects Coordinator, her son’s holiday wish. Vicki realized she knew someone who could help, and symbolically adopt Heather’s family. Occasionally, particularly during the holidays, a donor will want to give directly to a family seeking help at NHCO. It’s unofficially known as “adopting a family.”

“We do get donors every year who want the personal connection and we try to accommodate them,” Vicki said. “I relayed this (Heather’s story) to the donor who was really touched and just so happened to have a close friend who is a roofer.” That donor was Melissa who has a long history with NHCO, both as a client and donor. In 1991, when she was a child, her family moved to Pittsburgh. About a month later her father unexpectedly died.

“It was a pretty scary time financially. My mother began to utilize the services of the North Hills Community Outreach for the food bank,” Melissa remembered. Christmas soon followed, and through NHCO an unknown donor learned of her family’s plight and adopted them. And during that very tough time, Melissa and her brother received gifts for the holidays.

“I remember thinking, wow, these people don’t even know us and they did this for us? The experience planted a seed within me to pay forward the kindness and mercy,” she added. That seed sprouted this past holiday season while she was looking to adopt a family through NHCO and heard Heather’s story.

“Having three kids of my own, I felt called to do something. Although I didn’t know Heather and her family directly, after hearing her story, I knew that if I was in her shoes, I would hope that someone would love me enough to help me if they could.”

Melissa contacted a friend who owns a construction company, and soon after Christmas the rain stopped falling in Heather’s home.
Senior Services
18.3% of the Pittsburgh population is over 65 years-old, and many of those seniors do not have family nearby. NHCO offers two programs to help them live safe and healthy.

In Service of Seniors: North (ISOS) provides:
• Transportation to medical appointments, grocery stores and pharmacies
• Friendly visits and phone calls
• Yardwork, including raking leaves, trimming bushes and shoveling snow
• Safety checks in their homes
• And more

Our Free Rides for Seniors (FRFS) shuttles provide door-to-door service along the Route 28 corridor weekdays between 10am-4pm. Destinations include medical appointments, grocery stores, banks and pharmacies. The ride along dispatcher assists the driver by taking calls, navigating the route and helping passengers onto the shuttle.

Fluid Station Volunteers at The Pittsburgh Marathon - May 3
Want to take part in the marathon but you don’t want to break a sweat? We have the perfect opportunity for you. Be a fluid station volunteer and help keep the runners hydrated. Between 5:30-10:30am Volunteers will hand out water and sports drinks on the North Side along Fulton Street between Ridge and Western Avenue. This is a great way to cheer on your racing friends and NHCO’s Charity Runners.

Color Me RAD - May 15 and 16
Runners will dash along the North Shore for a 5K that leads through stations that spray colorful powder, leaving them looking like a tied-dye masterpiece. NHCO is co-hosting the event to raise awareness about our mission, and collect food donations for our pantries.

We need volunteers age 18 and older on:
• Friday May 15, 1-6pm, Hyatt Hotel on the North Shore. Volunteers will check-in runners and hand out information packets.
• Saturday May 16 (Race Day), 7am-noon, Hyatt Hotel on the North Shore. Volunteers will check in any last minute participants, help tear down the volunteer station and provide support as needed.

Record Breaking Ringing!
NHCO’s 2019 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign brought in the most donations since we started ringing in 2001.

One hundred thirty six volunteer bell ringers, six kettle collectors and four money counters raised $18,648! Bells rang loud and clear - and some broke - while volunteers staffed two hour shifts at Kuhn’s Market in Allison Park and Walmart in Gibsonia.

“I heard so many positive comments/thank you from all that were donating. Truly had the opportunity to see and talk with many amazing caring folks!” - Susan, bell ringing volunteer.

Many sang songs and crooned carols to help pull in donations. Some danced in the crisp winter air, often filled with brisk winds and heavy fog.

Retired Pittsburgh Musician Slim Forsythe closed the campaign at Kuhn’s on Christmas Eve with singing and strumming. He also sold CDs of his songs, then donated the money to the kettle.
Program Spotlight - Education Assistance
Helping non-traditional adult students in need reach their education goals.

Amanda was only 14 credits, about one semester, away from earning a degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State when her loan benefits ended. The 43-year-old could not afford to stay in school, so she left. She was planning to use her degree to help children in the foster program who might need additional family support.

“I have all these things I want to do that I know will make a huge impact in the community, and these 14 credits are standing in the way. I felt like I was letting them (the children) down.”

A few years earlier Amanda came to NHCO for help paying a water bill. During that visit she learned we offer assistance for other needs, including education. Realizing this could help, she contacted NHCO’s Resource Coordinator Melissa Mason who oversees the education assistance program.

“Amanda kept running into barriers with financial aid, so I thought she would make a great candidate for our Education Assistance Program,” Melissa said.

Last November Amanda was awarded the grant. This spring she’s back in school. She’s also exploring internship opportunities, including one that provides enrichment activities to underserved children.

Sharing Projects
Help local families in need this spring by donating to NHCO’s two seasonal sharing projects

Personal Care Collection, Feb.17 – April 20
SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits cannot be used to purchase personal care items. These items are a necessity, and can be an expense that many low-income families cannot afford. NHCO collects these items and gives them to families and individuals who use our food pantries.

Suggested items include:
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shower gel or bar soap
- New wash cloth or loofa
- Body lotion
- Deodorant
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Mouthwash
- Dental floss
- Chapstick
- Disposable razors

Spring Cleaning Collection, April 20 – June 15
SNAP benefits also cannot be used to purchase cleaning supplies. These items can be costly to many of our neighbors who are dealing with hardship. This spring, please help NHCO collect cleaning supplies to give to our food pantry clients, and together we’ll help make their home sparkle.

Suggested items include:
- Laundry detergent
- Dish detergent
- Antibacterial wipes
- All-purpose and toilet bowl cleaner
- Dish detergent
- Pack of sponges and paper towels
- Scrubbing pads

How To Donate
- Donated Items can be dropped off at any of our three locations between 9am-4pm, Monday through Friday.
- Our Allison Park office is also open for donations the first Saturday of the month from 9am-noon.
- You can also arrange a drop off by calling 412-487-6316 opt 1.
Your Unwanted Car Can Help Others  
- It’s Easy and Free -

Donate Your Car  
We’ll pick it up  
$  
We sell it at auction

The money helps those in need with:
Car repairs • Driver’s license/PA Registration renewal
One-time car loan or insurance payment • AAA membership
Port Authority Connect Card • Rideshare gift card (Lyft, Uber)
Car seats • Assistance with down payments

Visit NHCO.org and click “Donate Your Car” or contact
Dan Wonders, Transportation Resource Coordinator
412-408-3830 x 3225 • djwonders@nhco.org

NHCO Adopted a Road in North Park
and we need volunteers to help keep it clean.

For more information, please contact
Harriet Klatte, Volunteer Coordinator
412-408-3830 x 3204 • hzklatte@nhco.org

Rosalinda Sauro Sirianni Garden
Open Volunteer Hours starting June 1
and continuing through October.
Every Monday and Thursday, 10am - 2pm.
Everyone is welcome - no experience is necessary!

On-the-job training, supervision and all necessary gardening equipment and supplies are provided. We need help planting, watering, weeding and harvesting through the growing season. No RSVP required except for groups of five or more. No hours on national holidays. All scheduled work days are held rain, shine or snow.

Garden Wishlist
Because our needs are specific and change season to season, we kindly ask for gift cards from Amazon, Tractor Supply, Home Depot, Lowe’s and Johnny’s Seed.

For in-kind donations, please contact:
Alyssa Crawford, Garden and Youth Coordinator
412-307-0069 x 3311
aacrawford@nhco.org

Learn more about NHCO’s garden and how it benefits our community at NHCO.org/Garden

Corporate Matching Gifts!
DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT with a matching gift or volunteer incentive grant from your employer.
Many employers will match your financial donation in part or in full. Some will financially match your volunteer hours, too.

Visit nhco.org/corporate-matching-gifts

If you shop on Amazon, you can switch to AmazonSmile and name NHCO as your charity recipient.

You shop. Amazon gives.
Sixth Annual Neighborhood Block Party
Sunday, March 22, 4:30 – 8:00 PM
The Chadwick, 10545 Perry Hwy, Wexford, PA 15090
Featuring Live Music from NO BAD JUJU! Also delicious food, games, face painting, princesses & superheroes, balloon art, silent auction, caricature artist and more.
Reservations: Early Bird – Effect through March 1, Adult $30, Child $14
From March 2 – March 19, Adult $35, Child $15
Tickets available at NHCO.org/Neighborhood-Block-Party

Donate to our Pittsburgh Marathon Charity Runners
Now through May 1, 2020
NHCO is proud to be one of the charitable organizations involved in the Dick’s Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon. More than a dozen participants are part of #Team NHCO, a group of charity runners raising money for NHCO. You can support them by donating at NHCO.org/Marathon

Join us for The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community
May 9, 2020
Grab your friends, family, co-workers and pets and join us for a 5k walk in and around downtown Pittsburgh. Form a team, join a team or be a virtual walker and enjoy some great exercise while raising funds for NHCO. Learn how to register at NHCO.org/Fundraisers-and-Events

Save the Date – Corks For The Community
August 11, 2020
Narcisi Winery, 4578 Gibsonia Rd Gibsonia, PA 15044
Enjoy a summer evening of wine, art, live music and activities while helping your neighbors in need. More details coming soon

Save the Date – Charity Golf Tournament Benefitting NHCO
August 28, 2020
Pheasant Ridge Golf Club, 6065 Rittman Rd, Gibsonia, PA 15044
Volunteers Mary and Mike Weber will host this event for the second year in a row that includes a round of golf, lunch, dinner and a silent auction. More details coming soon

Jump For The Hills - Thank You to All the Students Who Participated!

This winter, students at all seven elementary schools in North Allegheny participated in “Jump for the Hills!” a jump rope fundraiser that benefited NHCO. The program encouraged kids to:
• Be physically active.
• Engage in community service.
• Raise support and awareness for NHCO’s mission of helping neighbors in need.

After the holiday break, students learned jump rope skills during their physical education classes. At the same time they raised donations from family, friends and neighbors that benefited NHCO. They demonstrated their talents at each of their schools during “Jump Day.”

Students at Ingomar Elementary show off their skills during Jump Day.
MISSION
North Hills Community Outreach addresses the needs of people in crisis, hardship and poverty.

WE ENVISION
Northern Allegheny County as a sharing community where no one should feel cold, hungry or alone.

Thank You Quotes
“It is wonderful to know that there are organizations like NHCO that benefit the Pittsburgh region in such a positive way!”
- Amy M.

“Sometimes we find ourselves in a situation where we don’t know where to turn, that is when we turn to you. You have never let us down, and have always gone above and beyond.”
- Anonymous

“Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate you filling our belly’s during this rough time.”
- Anonymous

“You and NHCO have helped me regain my dignity and helped me make massive steps to a better and more peaceful future, through your kindness, concern and compassion.”
- Tricia