



April 20, 2023

RE: Urgent Donation Plea

St. Matthias' major service mission, Caritas-Minocqua, serves Vilas and Oneida counties by distributing funds to those in urgent and immediate need of assistance. *Caritas* is the Latin word meaning charity, the Christian concept of spiritual love, and love for all people. We are blessed to have a dedicated group of volunteers who are ready to listen, offer compassion, problem solving, and more importantly, offer hope to those who are in desperate need.

The needs we assist with weekly:

- Homelessness, motel stays.
- Rent assistance.
- Transportation; car repairs, gas vouchers, insurance, registration.
- Utilities; gas and electric bills, propane, water bills, phone bills,
- Food and clothing
- Furniture and household items
- Medical prescriptions and dental expenses

In 2022 the assistance we provided clients totaled \$65,530 (Housing \$25,943); we are outpacing these numbers by an enormous rate in 2023. In the first quarter of 2023 assistance given totaled \$32,358. Housing assistance alone totaled \$17,745. On average we are giving \$2,950 per week in assistance.

The Caritas mission began in 2013 and has never experienced this level of need. Our coffers are emptied. We urgently need donations to continue our work in helping our community members that are desperate for help.

We have two anonymous donors that have offered to match donations, each matching up to \$5,000! Donate in May and June; and have your gift matched dollar for dollar!

Thank you for your consideration.

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