



Keeping the Home Fires Burning

It started out as filling a single need, and has grown into one of the largest woodbanks in New England. The Cumberland Woodbank is a community based, volunteer-run, fuel assistance program for people in the greater Cumberland/North Yarmouth area. A team of volunteers collects and processes donated hardwood logs and firewood, and delivers the firewood to people in need who heat their homes with wood. Excess firewood is sold just over market prices and 100% of the revenue is used to provide fuel assistance to those who can't burn wood. In 2015, they've collected over 100 cords of wood and delivered over 65 cords, raising over \$17,000 in fuel assistance.

In it's early days in 2006, a handful of volunteers from the Congregational Church in Cumberland, armed with chainsaws, splitting mauls and pick-up trucks, would collect the wood in the form of downed trees, cut and split it into firewood, and deliver it. Soon, these volunteers invited their friends and family members to help, and the Cumberland Woodbank grew into a community effort. Over the next few years word spread and the donations grew, as well as the demand for more firewood. In 2014 a fundraising campaign was started to purchase a wood-processor and a dump trailer, so they could meet this higher demand. Through many generous donations, including a grant from the Maine Conference's Resourcing the Local Church fund, they were able to purchase this equipment and can now process the wood more efficiently and keep up with the demand.



Most Saturday mornings from late Spring through Fall you can find a crew of dedicated volunteers wearing hard-hats, work-gloves and chaps, and wielding chainsaws working away at the woodpile, processing it into firewood and delivering it to keep people warm through the winter months.

For more information, check out their website at

<http://www.woodbank.org/>

Or their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandWoodBank>

