

Connecticut Office of Attorney General
Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection

Sandy Hook Relief Information

Name of Organization: **Newtown Lions Club Foundation, Inc.**
Sandy Hook Elementary Fund

1. What is the approximate dollar amount of donations and pledges that your organization has received to date in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy?

The Newtown Lions Club Foundation has raised approximately \$100 thousand to date for Sandy Hook relief. These funds are maintained in a separate account from funds raised for other purposes. The Newtown Lions Club Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity under IRS rules.

2. Will these funds be used solely for the Sandy Hook tragedy? If not, approximately what portion will be used for relief for victims and what other purposes, and in what proportions, will funds be used for?

The funds raised in connection with the Sandy Hook tragedy will be used primarily for the benefit of the victims' families, affected students and their families, staff at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, and first responders. Some funds may be used in the future for a suitable memorial or similar projects for the benefit of the residents of Newtown. Additionally, appreciation events for the families, staff and first responders are being considered.

The Newtown Lions Club Foundation is a volunteer organization and as such we have no overhead for managing our fund. A small portion of our fundraising dollars goes to expense of postage and materials for mailings. This is quite minimal at under \$1000 to date.

3. Approximately how much has your organization spent to date related to the Sandy Hook tragedy?

The Newtown Lions Club Foundation has spent approximately \$24 thousand to date on the Sandy Hook tragedy.

4. What services has your organization provided to those affected by the Sandy Hook tragedy? What populations or class of victims are being served by your organization in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy? What services does it expect to provide in the future?

The Newtown Lions Club Foundation has been assisting with the financial cost of post-trauma mental health counseling and treatment. We reimburse the deductibles and co-pays of individuals with health insurance and the entire cost for those lacking insurance or whose insurance does not cover mental health treatment. We anticipate providing this service for at least the next ten years or until funds run out.

The population served includes the families of the victims, affected Sandy Hook Elementary School students and their families, staff at the Sandy Hook Elementary School, first responders (including police, firemen, and EMTs) and others affected by the tragedy on a case by case basis.

5. Has your organization provided funding to other organizations for purposes related to the Sandy Hook tragedy? If so, which organizations have received those funds and what is the approximate dollar amount provided to them? How does your organization determine the need for funding?

To date, the Newtown Lions Club Foundation has not provided any funds raised in connection with the Sandy Hook tragedy to any other organizations. Sandy Hook funds are kept in a separate account from the other funds raised by the Foundation (which may be donated to other organizations) and separate records are kept for all receipts and disbursements. We reserve the right to donate some of the funds raised in connection with the Sandy Hook tragedy to other organizations if those funds will be used exclusively for the purposes of Sandy Hook relief or a memorial to the Sandy Hook Elementary School victims.

6. Has your organization provided, or does it intend to provide, direct financial assistance to individuals, families or businesses for Sandy Hook relief? If so, what is the approximate dollar amount that your organization has proved to date and approximately how much direct financial assistance does it expect to provide in the future? How does your organization determine the need for assistance?

Where individuals have incurred out-of-pocket costs of mental health therapy, the Newtown Lions Club Foundation reimburses them directly. In most cases, payment is made directly to the therapist. Approximately \$23 thousand has been paid to date.

Based on the experience of the first three months, we anticipate that total reimbursement for mental health treatment will be about \$130 thousand per year or \$1.3 million over the next decade.

The Newtown Lions Club Foundation has a process in place for vetting all requests for reimbursement. All requests are reviewed by the Chairman of the Sandy Hook Elementary Fund committee, who is a licensed counselor and a member of the Connecticut Counseling Association and by the Foundation's Board of Directors to ensure that the services are provided by a licensed therapist and that the rates charged are reasonable and customary for this area.

7. Does your organization have a plan in place on how to use any surplus funds not spent for purposes related to the Sandy Hook tragedy? If so, please describe that plan.
The Newtown Lions Club Foundation does not anticipate having any surplus funds not spent for the Sandy Hook tragedy. We plan to continue reimbursing the costs of mental health treatments for at least the next ten years or until funds are exhausted.

Raymond Keegan, President

4/7/2013

Name and title of representative

Date

Please email this document with your response to Nancy.Santoro@ct.gov by April 12, 2013. You may obtain an electronic copy of this document by emailing a request to <http://www.ct.gov/ag/lib/ag/charities/sandyhookfundraising-web.doc> or by emailing a request to Nancy.Santoro@ct.gov.