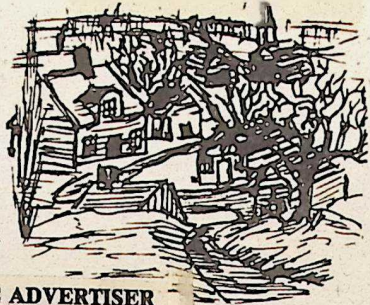


Village View by Andrea Leonard



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Did you receive your Cape Cod United Fund appeal yet? If so, and have already mailed your gift or pledged your fair share, you're invited to consider Thanksgiving a day of thanks-getting as well. Please accept thanks from everyone else on Cape Cod.

Not only the children in scouting and youth programs, not only police, firemen and beach life guards trained by our Red Cross, not only unfortunates who suffer from alcoholism, not only retarded citizens who receive help and training....

And not only the emotionally disturbed, or abused and neglected children, or servicemen spending this holiday at a USO, or the traveler far from home without funds, or people stiff and aching with arthritis.....

And not only fatherless boys and girls who've found a Big Brother or Big Sister, or people being helped through a crisis by a kindly Home-maker.....

But also -- thanks from the rest of us with none of these problems who use none of these services.

When we unite to help others, we build a better world for all. We never know when we may find ourselves in need.

The Cape Cod United Fund is a joint effort to support problem-solving agencies so when need arises their services will be available.

The agencies stand ready to help anyone. None of us is sure help will never be needed. None of us has insurance against trouble.

We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars a year for police and fire protection. Without training police and firemen couldn't help when fire, accident or physical collapse strikes without warning.

We deplore the rising crime rate -- we know youngsters get into trouble with the law when they need, but do not receive, love and understanding from the adults in their lives.

Crime prevention is far less expensive than prosecuting criminals. Big Brothers is one excellent way to prevent youngsters from going wrong. It works.

When the kid-next-door learns good citizenship, pride in accomplishments, to get along with one another in a group, we have proof that youth service programs are healthy outlets for youngsters full of energy. Busy hands are happy hands. The Devil finds work for idle hands.

Little children, defenseless against the brutality of an angry parent, ARE being protected. Youngsters receiving inadequate care are identified through the concern of other family members, schools, police, doctors and nurses, ministers and neighbors.

Their parents are helped and taught ways to provide better care, proper food and clothing, medical attention, decent housing, and -- most important -- how to show their love for their children.

Without a place to turn, the alcoholic drinks himself more and more deeply into degradation, inflicting as much damage upon his family and the community as upon himself.

Without help the retarded sit idly, day after day, and vegetate; with help, they realize their highest potential and many become productive and contributing members of society.

The mentally ill CAN be helped. It's no longer necessary to lock them up in institutions for the rest of their lives. Institutions are being phased out; the mentally ill are receiving care and treatment while retaining their places in the community.

In the Armed Forces around the world, service people are finding a home-away-from-home at USOs. These people are your sons and daughters, or those of your neighbors.

No one knows when or where arthritis may strike. It may hit me -- or you -- or a person we love. It's found in the young. It's seen in the old.

The middle-aged are no more immune than anyone else.

You could find you unexpectedly need someone to take over, temporarily, your household duties.

These services don't just flower and bloom without financial aid. Each Cape Cod United Fund agency requires office space, leadership, and people to do the work. Expenses of rent and utilities, office equipment and salaries, must be met.

It's not possible for an agency to perform both the service it's pledged to give and the fund-raising activities necessary to maintain itself. Raising money to support agencies is the purpose of our Cape Cod United Fund.

Perhaps you could live your entire life without ever using one of these agencies yourself. Nevertheless, when you live in a community offering these services, you benefit from them.

The kids next door are better behaved when involved in scouting and Camp Fire Girls. Troubled youngsters, lucky enough to find a Big Brother or Big Sister, are diverted from illegal to healthy activities.

The sick are not happy people. Your community is healthier and happier because your neighbors have available resources to help them get well, overcome their weaknesses, grow to better and healthier

You -- every one of you -- have a responsibility to participate in supporting the community services adding appreciably to your own well-being, happiness and safety.

This year as you join with millions of Americans at the traditional Thanksgiving dinner, you have much to be thankful for.

If you've shared in supporting the Cape Cod United Fund, may the blessing of thanks for your help flow into your heart, merging with your own gratitude for the food on your table and the shining love of your family around you.

It's a very special exchange and one that may be new to you if this is the first year you've participated in making a contribution to the United Fund.

You too can know the satisfaction of having done your part to help. You can know the joy of having the things you really need, and of having helped others receive what they really need.

If the Cape Cod United Fund appeal letter addressed to you hasn't yet reached you, you don't have to wait for it. Your contribution folded in a sheet of paper with your name and address, and mailed to the fund at 396 Main Street, Hyannis, will bring thanks from everyone on Cape Cod.

And Thanksgiving Day will take on a special significance for you. May the happiness that's enriched through sharing be yours.