

FAMILY SERVICES

The following program outlines the projects and contests that make up the Family Services department. Each grange should have a chairperson for this department who reports on family activities at each meeting and is responsible for submitting an annual report to the NH State Grange Family & Community Services directors. The report form can be found in the back of this booklet. Please encourage your grange to participate in as many of these projects as possible.

NIGHT NIGHT HUGS PROJECT

This program has had great success statewide and will continue in 2026. There are shelters and domestic violence crisis centers that unfortunately have many children enter their doors. Most of these children arrive with nothing but the clothes on their backs. This project should be easy for all of us to execute. All sacks should be donated to shelters and centers in NH.

This project will provide each child with a **blanket, stuffed toy and a book in a sack**. It will be up to each subordinate to put these sacks together. You can deliver these sacks to shelters yourselves or contact a state Family Services committee member and we will deliver them for you.

Blanket – Most common are fleece blankets for children. This is relatively easy as they are just cut and tied. If using fleece, generally two pieces each 1.5 yards in length to be cut and tied together (per blanket) works. Crocheted children's afghans are also welcome. Blankets can also be purchased if needed. Blankets should be 50" X 60" or a little smaller.

Stuffed Toy – These can be handmade, can be a sock monkey or a hand sewn, pre-printed stuffed toy or a purchased toy. All toys should be **NEW** and should be medium in size. If too large they won't fit in the sacks and if too small they will get lost in the sack.

Book – You can either purchase new books or go to your local library for good used children's books.

Sack – Please use a pillowcase or sew a sack to hold the blanket, book and toy. You can also purchase a sack. For example, you can find them in Oriental Traders catalog for a reasonable cost.

We sincerely hope that you will continue to rally behind this project! Just think how many children will be comforted by this small gesture.

COOK THE SEASONS

For 2026 we will be offering four events - one in each season - to be hosted by different granges around the state. Each season will feature a different cooking theme involving a demonstration or hands-on class where we will learn to make something in the kitchen.

- Winter - "Warm Up Your Winter" - soup and/or chowder
- Spring - Mother's Day Brunch - breakfast and lunch type casseroles
- Summer - "Summer Bounty" - making jam/jelly/preserves
Family & Community Day - bring your needlework contest entries!
- Fall - "Fall Harvest" - apple dumplings

These events will be open to the public. The time frame for each event will be two to three hours, maximum. More specific information with dates, locations, etc will come to your grange via mailings, the Granite State Granger and the grange email grapevine. Stay tuned!

MOUNTAIN OF MITTENS

This worthwhile project will be continued in 2026. We are asking for handmade (sewn, knit or crocheted) or purchased mittens for our Mountain of Mittens we will have at state grange session in October 2026. The more mittens we can collect the higher our mountain, but most importantly, the more children's hands are kept warm. Hats and scarves are welcome too. These items are donated to local schools around the state to help keep children warm during the cold winter months. Thank you for all you do to help with this need throughout our state. Tell your friends who aren't grangers about this project – they may want to help too! **Chairpersons:** try to keep a total of donated mittens to report on your year-end report form.

BAKING CONTEST

**** Please note: there will be no judging at the Pomona level in 2026. All subordinate 1st place winners are invited to bring their entries to state session for judging.**

Quiche! - This year we are baking something savory instead of sweet!

RULES:

1. The crust and filling must be made from scratch.
2. Entry must be submitted in a pie plate (any kind - glass, metal, etc. May be disposable). Quiche must be whole and uncut.
2. Each entry must include a copy of the recipe, along with the name of the entrant and their grange name and number written on the back.
3. Non-members and junior grangers are welcome to enter.
4. Cash prizes will be awarded at the state level (which will be held at state session) for first, second and third places. (\$25, \$20 and \$15).

There are lots of recipes available for quiche! Find a good recipe and share it at your subordinate grange.

EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

To help support the fundraising efforts of the New England Grange Building at the “Big E”, we are asking for handmade items that can be sold there: Baby articles, nylon scrubbies, stuffed animals, dolls, pot holders, knitted or crocheted dish cloths, afghans, mittens, scarves, hats, knee warmers, booties, vests, aprons, wall hangings, pillow cases, bureau scarves, crafts, etc. Note: if you make scrubbies use netting (not tulle), it is much sturdier and makes a better scrubby. **Please mark your items that are for the Big E. Turn in your items to us by August 1, 2025. Chairpersons:** please keep track of the number of items you send and include it on your year-end report.

Please do not send items with the grange emblem on them as they do not sell well.

NEEDLEWORK CONTEST - SEE ATTACHED BROCHURE

All entries will be due to us by **August 1, 2026** so they can be judged in time for the winners to be sent to the Big E for Northeastern judging. Contact Kathy or Joyce if you would like to make arrangements to deliver your entries rather than have to pay to ship or mail them, we are happy to meet you to pick them up.

STATE CONTESTS will also be held for the following categories:

Quilts – either hand or machine sewn, tied or quilted. Any size.

Woodworking - item can be made from a kit or freehand. Includes wood burn-burning, or painting on wood.

Other crafts (that do not fit into any other category)

All entries will be due to us by **October 1st, 2026.**

Please remember – non-members are also welcome and encouraged to enter these contests!

KELLEY FARM

While the National Grange Foundation no longer has the Kelley Farm as a fund due to the removal of the grange displays at the Kelley Farm Visitor Center, you may still make donations to the Kelley Farm via the Minnesota Historical Society website. Minnesota Historical Society www.mnhs.org.

FUDGE, TRAIL MIX & OTHER SNACKS

We are requesting granges to provide fudge and trail mix for sale at our state grange session in October 2026. Other snacks such as brownies and cookies would be gratefully accepted as well.

FAMILY SERVICES NIGHT (formerly known as Home Ec Night)

Your grange should plan to have a Family Services Night. You could invite other grangers and plan a well-balanced program. Here are some examples of things you could do:

- Invite a speaker in.
 - Have members participate in tying blankets for the Night Night Hugs project.
 - Have a demonstration or hands-on class of a craft, or canning, baking etc.
 - Hold your baking contest this night.
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COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The Community Service projects sponsored by the grange whether it is the Nation, State, County, City or town continues to show how much the organization cares about the people of our communities. It does not matter if the grange has 15 or 115 members, the projects sponsored by this organization make a difference in many people's lives.

Each grange is encouraged to sponsor a project whether large or small. Your grange might want to co-sponsor an event with another organization. As long as the event is successful and announced or advertised that it is jointly sponsored by the grange it is certainly Community Service.

GRANGE SPONSORED COMMUNITY AWARENESS MEETINGS

It would be a great Community Service Project if a Grange would like to sponsor a series of Awareness Meetings or even just try to have one. This would be an open meeting in which you would invite citizens of the community to come. Please involve the Lecturer if you wish for this project. Some of the topics that affect people are:

1. **Bullying** of students in schools and/or abuse of senior citizens who live alone or in a nursing home. Students in school continue to bully certain classmates. As horrible as it is, the result could lead to the student being bullied to commit suicide or do something different that will affect the school. Senior citizens who live alone or are patients in a nursing home can be prime candidates for scams, abuse or burglaries. There are some cases that patients in a nursing home could be considered abused. This is due to a facility being understaffed. It is up to a family or someone appointed to care for them to be on guard for their family member or friend who has concerns for their care.
2. **Drugs** - a major problem in the community, schools, etc. Heroin, Marijuana, and methadone overdoses which can be fatal in many cases are on the rise. See what your grange can do to help keep your community safe. You might consider having an Appreciation Night for the Police Department or combine it with the Fire Department or Rescue Squad. A "Coffee With A Cop" event helps the community build a relationship with their police department by asking questions about the goings-on in their town. A pot of coffee, some donuts and muffins and an open forum for talking with a police officer is a great community service project.
3. **Community Outreach** – How about developing a Community Garden? Or inviting the refugees or immigrants in your community to your grange

- meetings? Let them come in and see what the grange is. The Garden could be a great project for all to become involved in.
4. **Promote Safety** – Organize a self defense class, or an identity theft prevention class.
 5. **Fraud /Identity Theft** - this is an important topic, especially for seniors. Hackers are constantly finding new ways to scam innocent people.
 6. **Suicide Prevention** - talking about suicide isn't harmful - silence is. One honest, caring conversation can save a life. Start a conversation. Be the difference. Learn more on how you can support someone through a crisis.

SUPPORT KIDS

Your grange can help kids in your community who are less fortunate by giving them the supplies they need for school. If you know a teacher, principal or school administrator contact them to find out what their needs are. Here is a list of suggested school supplies:

Paper : lined, copy or construction paper, spiral notebooks, composition books,
Index cards

Pencils & Pens: blue or black pens, #2 pencils, colored pencils, erasers, pencil
Sharpeners, colored markers, crayons, highlighters

General supplies: paperclips, 3-ring binders, pocket folders

Classroom supplies: staplers, staples, rulers, protractors, glue sticks, tape,
Scissors, calculators

Things you can never have enough of: tissues, hand sanitizer, sanitizing wipes

Fill A Backpack – Your grange can help kids in your community who are less fortunate by giving them the supplies they need for school. Get a new backpack and fill it with school supplies from the list above. Deliver to your local school.

Coats, Hats & Mittens – in most communities there is a vital need for warm clothes for children. Your schools would love donations of these items.

COMMUNITY CITIZEN AWARD

The Community Citizen Award is to be presented by a Subordinate/Community Grange to a non-member, individual or small group, for his/her/their outstanding achievements in your community.

The award is available from National Grange Headquarters, 1616 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-4999 or <http://www.grangestore.org/>. Current cost is \$15.00 each. Go to the awards tab to find the certificates.

If you prefer, you can make up your own certificates of recognition.

FOOD PANTRYS/SOUP KITCHENS and HOMELESS SHELTERS

Hopefully your grange will consider either starting a food pantry or will support a local food pantry or soup kitchen with your donations of food or money. Your grange might be willing to donate manpower to assist serving meals or cleanup. There are some communities that only provide meals while others also provide a shelter for the homeless. Your grange may provide new pillows, linen, blankets, children's games, books and much more. It is very sad that we have people of all ages who do not have food to eat or a place to sleep at night. Your grange could make a huge difference in your town or a nearby community.

Food Drive – organize a food drive for a nearby food pantry. Set a deadline for items to be donated and arrange a drop-off location so the community can participate, not just your grange. Go a step further and contact your food pantry to see if there is something specific they need (peanut butter, boxed mac-n-cheese, baby food, etc) and make your food drive a challenge – challenge folks to donate as many jars, boxes, etc as possible.

Clothing Drive – organize a clothing drive for a nearby shelter. Again, you could make your drive specific, such as a “warm winter coat” drive.

LIBERTY HOUSE. **NH VETERANS HOME IN TILTON**

Each of these facilities is an excellent project to let our beloved veterans know they are not forgotten. They have done so much to preserve our freedom. The sad part is they have given so much but when they come home, they find no spouse, no home to live in, no job, and very little to be happy about. It is up to us as grange members to show them we do care and are there for them.

You can send greeting cards; surprise them at special times like Christmas, Valentines Day, Easter or Halloween. Granges are encouraged to support a veteran's shelter in their area. Let them know that they are not forgotten but very much respected and held in high esteem. Whatever we can do as grangers to make

their day a little brighter, then let's do it. Addresses for each home are listed below:

Liberty House
221 Orange St
Manchester, NH 03104

NH Veterans Home
139 Winter St
Tilton, NH 03276

DICTIONARY PROJECT

Donating student dictionaries to third grade students in public schools has become a major project for subordinate granges. Please contact the school in your community to let them know you wish to provide these wonderful books to students. If your grange cannot afford them, you might consider asking another organization to co-sponsor them with you or you might consider having a fundraising project to purchase them. The other alternative is to purchase a cheaper dictionary.

When you go to the school, be sure to be friendly with the staff and the students. Give them a nice greeting, talk very briefly about the grange and make sure the dictionaries have a label inside showing who has provided them.

Please contact Hannah West to place your order. You can reach her at gowest@tds.net or by phone at 603-798-5783.

SANTA REMEMBERS TEENS AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time when so many people look forward to celebrating with family gatherings, decorating the Christmas tree, singing Christmas songs and shopping for gifts. No matter what age you may be, the majority of people look forward to receiving a Christmas gift to open on Christmas morning. Teenagers from 13 to 18 tend to be forgotten at Christmas. Teenagers are the last tags to get taken from giving trees in the stores. They would be happy with a gift card to go to the movies, or McDonalds, Burger King, Subway, etc. or they love to go shopping – Walmart, Target, Best Buy are great options.

The gift cards are given to Operation Santa Claus, a statewide organization, and they distribute to teens throughout the state.

Please send or bring the gift cards to state session or send them to us if your grange is not going to the session. Please indicate the grange they are coming from so they will go to teenagers in your area. All gift cards must be received by November 30, 2025. Remember – we were all teenagers once!

LOOSE CHANGE FOR GRANGE

If your grange would like to raise funds for your grange's donation to Santa Remembers Teens perhaps you could have a glass jar to collect Loose Change For Grange: pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, etc. It all adds up! Maybe once a month you could ask your members to check their pocketbooks or men's pockets for loose change. This change could be used to either buy your gift cards or send your donation to us to purchase them for you.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Please keep track of your members' community service hours and enter the total number of hours on your year-end report. We would love to be able to show just how much time our members spend volunteering in their communities!

LOCAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

Each year for the past 34 years, it has been an honor to recognize the men and women who serve our communities as police officers, teachers and firefighters. They dedicate their lives to serving our citizens every day. Please show these folks your support and recognize those who go above and beyond the call of duty. Keep in mind that each community is different and there are other deserving people who fit into categories other than the ones we have listed here. For example, some granges give an agriculture award, a young farmer award, a youth service award, a business award, a community spirit award... Make your presentation an event. Plan to honor them at a special awards night and be sure to invite the families of the honorees and of course the public. Offer refreshments and a short program of interest to all, such as a musical performer, speaker, etc. Here are some helpful descriptions of awards that you may find useful in making your selections:

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

This award can be presented to a police officer, deputy sheriff or state police officer. There are towns that do not have their own police department and rely on the services of state police or sheriff's department for emergency calls. This is a

great way to say thank you for what they do when putting their lives on the line to keep us safe.

FIREFIGHTER/EMS OFFICER

Firefighters and/or EMS officers whether full time or part time provide a service that can't be matched. Can you imagine when the fire alarm is received what must be in the minds of the men and women who serve as firefighters and/or EMS? They are a very dedicated and well-trained group of people who are to be commended for their profession.

EDUCATOR

Education plays such a critical role in the path to success and since we are a family organization committed to the future of our children, it is our hope that your grange celebrates this profession and honors an outstanding educator.

POMONA GRANGE PROGRAM

Here are the projects for Pomona Granges to participate in. These are activities that should cover the area of your Pomona Grange. If for some reason your Pomona does not have an animal shelter or a nursing home you may select another similar place to donate to.

AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

The Award for Public Service is to be presented by a Pomona Grange to either a member or non-member, individual or group, for his/her/their outstanding achievements within your community.

The award is available from National Grange Headquarters, 1616 H Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-4999 or <http://grangestore.org/>. Current cost is \$15.00 each. Go to the awards tab to find the certificate.

If you prefer, you can make up your own certificates of recognition.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL SPCA OR HUMANE SOCIETY

Each Pomona Grange will hopefully consider supporting an SPCA or Humane Society by collecting items they might need for the animals, such as dog food, cat food, toys for the animals, rags for cleaning, cleaning liquid materials, offering to take the animals out for a walk, etc. Since some facilities have birds, bird food could be provided as well. If you aren't sure what they might need, contact the director of the local SPCA or Humane Society for their wishes or needs.

BE A SECRET PAL FOR A NURSING HOME SENIOR

This project involves members of the grange voluntarily adopting a senior citizen who is a patient or resident of a nursing home. Perhaps you could talk to the nursing home to see if there are seniors who do not get any visitors and would welcome a greeting card, a surprise visit or receive a small gift at Christmas or Hanukah.

For many residents most special holidays are just another day. Think of what it means for a senior citizen to have a surprise visit and the thought that someone is thinking about them. If your Grange would like to be a Secret Pal and send a card on special days, it will make a difference. Remember, some day we may be that senior citizen, hoping someone will remember us.

ADOPT A SPOT/ROADSIDE CLEANUP

Please plan with your subordinate granges to choose a spot in your community or along a state road or highway to work together to maintain the cleanliness of this area. Simply picking up trash can truly beautify that spot. If it is a local spot, consider planting flowers to add a little extra beauty to the area and for the community to enjoy.

Here is some additional information on the "Planet People" planet pack we demonstrated at the 2023 state grange convention. The following information comes from the web site: planetpeople.org

Who are Planet People?

Planet People pick up litter. We take simple steps to care for our planet. We clean up our streets, parks, and beaches one piece of trash at a time. We are engaging the next generation of Earth stewards by donating packs to preschool teachers, elementary schools, and youth programs. Please join us by donating a Planet Pack.

There are multiple ways to support Planet People:
Go outside and pick up litter. Add hashtag #biggerthanlitter to spread awareness!
Help place Planet Packs in your local schools through the Planet People donation program.
Shop Planet Packs in our store to support our nonprofit.

For further information contact: Ken Spencer, founder of Planet People
Phone: 802-338-2439
Email: ken@planetpeople.org
Address: 2338 Greenbush Rd, Charlotte, VT 05445

This year for fun we have included a bonus points BINGO card. As you complete your projects and programs, cross them off on the Bingo card. Send your card in to us with your report by October 1st, 2026. (It's also an easy way to keep track of the activities you have done as you progress through the year).

We sincerely hope you enjoy participating in the Family & Community Services program. If you have any ideas, thoughts, questions or comments we would love to hear from you. And PLEASE - **invite us to your Family & Community Night!**

Fraternally,
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