

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me,
"Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.”

— Fred Rogers

Thank you to Our Helpers!

Ways our community is caring for others:

- The Pope County Tribune, Starbuck Times, KMGK, Horizon Public Health, law enforcement, hospital and clinics, city offices, schools, Glenwood & Starbuck Chambers of Commerce and the Glenwood Welcome Center all help keep us informed.
- Over \$138,000 was given at the virtual Minnewaska Area Scholarship Program. Congratulations to all the award recipients!
- On May 17th a classic car vehicle run for senior living homes and spectators was held in Starbuck, Glenwood, Sunburg, New London, Spicer and Willmar.
- The Minnewaska Teacher’s Association members purchased \$1,000 worth of restaurant gift cards to be shared with students through Mary Walsh & Britt Rose’s meal program.
- All MAS teachers were recognized during Teacher Appreciation for their dedication to students and our community.
- MAS staff held parades throughout the county to greet families with signs and waves from their vehicles. They were welcomed by smiling children and parents holding signs with words of appreciation for them.
- The Box Office by Central Square handed out free Curbside Craft Kits the week of May 4-8. Supporters included Theresa’s Turn Bakery, REA Round-Up and LRAC.
- EC/THRIVE & BeKind members wrote messages of appreciation to MAS staff who are providing child care.
- United Way Pope County Food Drop – May 12. Volunteers received cloth masks from the Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” members.
- BeKind members surprised Margaret Pederson with a May Day drive-thru parade.
- EC/THRIVE delivered May Day appreciation gifts for child care providers and buckets of toys through a partnership with the Pope County child care licensor.
- Hundreds of May Day baskets were delivered to senior living homes compliments of Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” members.
- **HELP (Helping Everyone Live in Peace) Council supported the Senior Send-Off.**
- Thank you to Justin Zavadil of American Solutions for Business and the design team for donating the Be Kind to Our Earth reusable bags for BeKind members to share.
- Lauren Molloy and her husband continue to make face mask clips on their 3D

printer. They have made all of them free not only to help Pope County, but area communities as well.

- A graduate of MAHS whose family lives in Minneapolis shared that her 3-year-old daughter wanted to dress up in her pink flamingo costume and go up and down the sidewalk playing her harmonica for her neighbors. She did just that by waiting at the end of their sidewalk and playing until they came to the door to wave and clap from afar.
- One hundred and ten Marie Callender pies were purchased at Tom's Market in recognition of the Glenwood Retirement Village staff. The Glenwood Retirement and Auxiliary Boards shared their appreciation for the staff and in honor of their efforts, each employee received a whole pie. Sponsors also included churches, individual members and a Thrivent Community Action grant.
- Thank you to the staff of our financial institutions in Pope County for working hard to distribute the SBA Paycheck Protection Program loans to strengthen the well-being of our community members.
- Horizon Public Health is featuring a Photo Contest – May 6th – “Bike to Anywhere Day”. Participants are encouraged to go for a bike ride solo or with members of their household. Then snap a photo with your bike while social distancing and share it. For more details, visit the Horizon Public Health Facebook page.
- Volunteers shared creative and colorful May baskets for community members in senior living housing.
- Painted rocks are back! You may find some on your walks about town. Everyone was invited to join in the fun and create some of their own to share!
- A pen pal program is coordinated by Faith Sumption Anderson for community members living in nursing homes or senior care homes in Pope County. You can connect with her at pfander@hcinet.net or phone 239-2726.
- The Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” FB page had pictures of some of the activities including providing May baskets for community members living in nursing homes and senior care housing.
- Community members raised funds with a generous start-up donation from American Solutions for Business to purchase 2,600 KN95 masks for local healthcare workers and task force members. Twenty face shields were also purchased for the local funeral home along with 56 cloth masks for child care workers for children from frontline families. Thanks to Justin & Alisha Zavadil and ASB for making this possible through their suppliers.
- Community volunteers through Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” have created over 3,000 cloth masks for frontline workers. A mask distribution allowed hundreds of adults & children to receive one. Volunteers continue to make masks which are now available at Amy Roers's State Farm office located at 610 N Franklin Street, Suite 100 in Glenwood. One mask per family member is recommended and can be picked up Monday – Friday from 8:30 am – 6 pm and Saturday from 10 am – 3 pm.
- Our community is celebrating 2020 MAS Senior Graduates with their photos and bios on the Minnewaska Area Schools Facebook page.

- Faith Sumption Anderson is going to coordinate a Pen Pal Program for assisted living residents and the nursing homes through the Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” Facebook page.
- The Pope County Sheriff’s Department is offering sanitizers to first responders, daycare and assisted living facilities. They received 55 gallons of liquid hand sanitizer from Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company and another 55 gallons of surface sanitizer from FAST. For more information, call 634-5411 and ask for Sheriff Tim Riley or Officer Nathan Brecht.
- As of 4/18, the Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” group made 1,000 masks. Since then, several hundreds more can be added to that total.
- Over the past couple of weeks, Pizza Ranch, Subway and Brother’s Market delivered much appreciated food to the Pope County Sheriff’s Department. On Facebook, Sheriff Riley reminded us to support our local businesses and thanked everyone for the words of encouragement, handmade face masks and the outpouring of support they’ve received.
- Superintendent Chip Rankin, assured the Minnewaska Class of 2020 that they are thought of each and every day. He shared that MAS is working hard to reschedule senior events though they may look different. One hundred MAS Senior yard signs were ordered for seniors to display in the month of May as they prepare to become Laker Graduates.
- The EC/THRIVE Initiative shared gift cards from local restaurants with child care providers along with 54 much appreciated masks from the Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” group. Lauren Thomas Holloy is making mask extenders and shared them with providers.
- The Pope County Tribune is offering a special rate for advertising - a 2x2 ad for \$20/week. office@pctribune.com
- MAS Social Worker Mary Walsh & Counselor Britt Rose are coordinating the delivery of meals to be frozen/heated for 96 students from grades K-12. With the help of several volunteers and local supporters, teachers, churches and community members all without really asking! Food donations have been provided by: Kadejan - 50 lbs. of chicken, Pizza Ranch - taco sauce packets, Gather Coffee & Bistro - produce and other ingredients, Jennie-O - 300 lbs. of turkey and Minnewaska House - produce. Donations of funds have also been received from Glenwood State Bank and anonymous donors. Bobbi Jo Matt, Sara, Soffia and Lyla Stadtherr are filling the free little libraries with nonperishable food items due to the generous donations. To sign up or learn more about the program call Mary - 239-1317 or Britt - 239-4800.
- Restaurant and business Facebook and web pages are providing information on their “specials of the day”, hours and updates.
- Screen Prints Plus is printing t-shirts with the newly designed Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” logo created by Faythe Mills. Pat & Dan have also offered to make window clings of the logo for those who are interested. They are also offering cups with two different logo designs - Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” and within the outline of Minnesota is written - and the world came

together as the people stayed apart.

- Faythe Mills created a personalized logo for the Pope County “Together We Are Stronger” group. She also donated the first run of tags that are attached to the masks and distributed throughout the county. Jim Palmer of Palmer Creations has offered to donate future runs of the tags.
- Gather Coffee + Bistro provided coffee for the Glacial Ridge Clinic Staff the Saturday before Easter Sunday.
- Jessica Wilmes invited children and families to color one of the over 100 wooden Easter Eggs placed in yards throughout Glenwood and the surrounding area. All were invited to take part in a Distant Easter Egg Hunt.
- North Country Counseling sponsored a window Easter Egg Hunt with a Golden Egg as the prize.
- Linda Jenson donated mask extenders to Glenwood Retirement Village staff.
- Healthy Options treated Glenwood Retirement Village staff to shakes/teas.
- Hearts, lights, Teddy bears & Easter Eggs in homes/business windows.
- Glenwood’s lit anchors & sailboats.
- Minnewaska Area Schools lighting up Marthaler Field and Veterans Field at Glenwood State Bank Stadium every Monday evening as a beacon of hope for our students, staff, and community members! The lights will be on from 8:15 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. and be adjusted as daylight hours increase! GO LAKERS!
- Along with all the staff who are providing great lessons through distance learning, MAS is providing prep and pick-up for over 200 lunches while 91 children are receiving 3 “hot” meals/week. Staff are also providing care for children of those noted as essential workers: www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us
- FB “WaskaHarbor” Podcast (Minnewaska K-6 Podcast) MAES/MAIS Dean of Students, Caleb Greene “WaskaHarbor” Podcast (Minnewaska K-6 Podcast) bringing you thoughts from the Minnewaska Area: <https://anchor.fm/caleb-gree.../WaskaHarbor-Episode-7-ecead5> make sure to scroll down to listen. to Episodes (Spotify is not needed to listen) [#waskapride](#) [#distancelearning](#)
- Glacial Hills Elementary School staff are also providing great distance learning lessons and are providing pick-up meals/delivered for a number of children. Each family received an Easter basket: www.glacialhills.org/
- Parents are supporting their children as distance learning continues.
- Parents are practicing extra caution in social distancing and supporting their child care providers by providing supplies and/or by following their provider’s contracts.
- Horizon Public Health ~ Health Educator, Shelley Svec has convened and provided information and support for various sectors throughout the county: info@horizonph.org, horizonpublichealth.org
- “Shower the Love” effort through Uptown Floral, promoted through the Glenwood Area Lakes Chamber & Welcome Center—flowers delivered to all 227 residents at Glenwood Retirement Village, Parkview Court, Glenwood Estates, Ridgewood Villa, Minnewaska Lutheran Home, Glacial Trails Memory Care and

Holly Ridge Manor.

- EC/THRIVE & MAS collected greeting cards made by children for the nursing homes to wish them a Happy Easter & Happy Spring.
- BeKind members are making masks, sent out messages of appreciation for helpers as described by Fred Roger's mother and are checking in with each other via email/phone calls while sharing inspirational stories of kindness, music and appreciation for each other and our community.
- Many non-profits are reviewing their event schedules and adjusting to current guidelines to keep everyone safe.
- Some churches are able to share online services and/or calling or emailing parishioners with greetings, prayers and support.
- "Pope County Masks for Front Line Workers" ~ Alisha & Justin Zavadil have set up a Go Fund Me Page for purchasing KN95 masks for essential workers.
- Douglas County Car Care (also serves Pope County) is helping with deliveries: carcareprogramevents@gmail.com, www.douglascountycarcare.org
- Pope County "Together We Are Stronger" FB page facilitates the making of masks ~ Karen Holte & Amy Roers
- Pope County United Way of Douglas & Pope County ~ Pope County Food Drops— call to learn how to sign up and about other program details or visit their website: 320-834-7800, uwdp.org
- American Solutions for Business packed UW Back Pack Attack food bags for students.
- All the businesses who have made special accommodations for patrons through curbside pickup or delivery.

Thank you to all the helpers ~ medical workers, civil service employees, delivery folks, nursing home workers, bank workers, pharmacy workers, mail carriers, sanitary workers, farmers, journalists, truckers, first responders, factory workers, restaurant workers, non-profit workers, grocery workers, child care providers, hardware store workers, utility workers, military workers, mechanics, schools/staff, business owners and...Everyone who is working to keep things going in these challenging times and to all who are Staying Home except for essential visits for groceries/supplies and outdoor exercise.

Thank you to the Pope County Tribune/Starbuck Times (pctribune.com) & the Glenwood Area Lakes Chamber (www.glenwoodlakesarea.org) for posting this list with contacts and updates in real time with ways our community is caring for others.

If you would like to add to the list, please email the Pope County Family Collaborative ~ famcolab@icloud.com Questions? Call 320-634-3909