

# WESTFORD

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## Local charitable organization has 70th birthday

by Gordon B. Seavey

A little-known charitable organization which has been aiding destitute Westford folk for several generations, will observe its 70th anniversary this year.

It derives its support from money left in 1918 in memory of two well-known families, plus two more recent donations.

Named the Whitney-Herrick Fund, it was established in that year through the wills of Elizabeth Whitney and Eliza Herrick. Mrs. Whitney was the donor of the Whitney Playground in the center of the town and she lived in a grand old colonial home on Leland Road. Miss Herrick made her home in the brick-end house still standing and until recently part of the Abiel J. Abbot estate and opposite the Westford Nursing Home. Initial sum was \$10,000.

Trustees of the fund originally were two organizations affiliated with the First Parish Church, the Ladies Sewing Society and the Women's Alliance.

According to the by-laws, income from the money is for the "relief of the needy, unfortunate citizens of Westford." This is administered in a quiet, unpublicized and confidential manner.

amount for the Board to dispense. We have paid for camp scholarships for children of working mothers or special camping experiences for handicapped youngsters. We have paid fuel or electric bills, helped with scholarships and aided occasionally with nursing and special health needs.

"The frustrations of our group of nine Board members increase as it becomes more evident that we are unable to make a reasonable response to a need which often cannot be serviced

by other community resources."

It is evident that this fund will continue for many years to come and she suggests that some might wish to leave a charitable gift in their wills, or make a tax deductible gift at anytime.

Current officers of the group include Mrs. George E. Downey as president; Mrs. Robert Reeve, secretary; Mrs. Lloyd Blanchard, vice-president; and Mrs. Steve Smith, treasurer. □

Although the present fund amounts to \$12,200, its present income in modern times scarcely enables the trustees to spread much aid and cheer. All that is required of recipients is that they be residents of the town.

Speaking recently for the board of nine trustees, past chairman, Mrs. Edward Lamson, said: "It is a matter of simple arithmetic to realize that with today's inflation the income from these funds produces a pitifully small