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Spring does not come to everyone

To the Editor: It's spring! Flowers are popping out **of** the ground. Birds are chattering as they return to the area. Days are getting longer.

Everything seems to be rejuvenating. For most **of** us.

Unfortunately, behind the good news this spring, many among us stand in shadows - and will not be able to enjoy the new season.

They don't carry much **of** a voice. Maybe they lost their jobs in the recent downturn. They're having trouble paying their utility bills. A mortgage or other debt crushes their ability to simply put food on their tables.

This is a reality the **Community Fund of Darien** hears about every day. A single parent in Stamford can't afford care for a little one.

An elderly woman in **Darien** can't pay to get to her doctors for help. A young boy in Rowayton is being driven out **of** his house by domestic violence from his parents. Where do these people turn? Who is able to see what's needed - in a time when so many **of** us are concentrating on our own families.

Fortunately, we have a network **of** human services agencies that make it their business to reach out and help those living on the margins. They see. They act. And they desperately need your help to continue doing the good work they do.

For spring-cleaning this year, if you want to help "clean your conscience," please consider donating generously to the **Community Fund of Darien**. During April, 50 **of** our dedicated allocations volunteers from **Darien** and Rowayton are visiting 26 agencies to form recommendations for support during the year ahead.

These volunteers audit needs and ensure the effectiveness **of** how our generous donors **funds** are used during these difficult times.

I'm delighted to say this year marks the "60th spring" for the **Community Fund of Darien**.

Throughout these decades we've operated with a simple mission: "to increase the capacity **of** the **community** to care for one another".

As you enjoy the pleasures **of** Spring, please consider helping us make this a more hopeful season for those in need around us.

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