



**COMMUNITY CENTER
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER**

The Community Center of Northern Westchester seeks to improve the well-being and self-sufficiency of neighbors in need in Northern Westchester by providing food, clothing, programs, and other resources. We are committed to treating all with dignity and respect. We encourage broad involvement and participation by residents & organizations in the communities we serve.



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2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT



COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

Over 25 Years of Neighbors Helping Neighbors

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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

No matter how prosperous a local community may be or how strong the overall economy, there will always be some in need. Our goal is to serve those in need with dignity and respect; providing food, clothing and skill development programs. This year we have seen need grow among our seniors on fixed incomes and are planning how to better meet their unique challenges.

CCNW is well positioned to continue to meet the needs of our community thanks to a reliable base of support: our Community Partners, who are our roots into our local communities; our generous donors who provide food, clothing and funding; and a large base of volunteers who support our services.

With the support of volunteers and local community our March 2019 launch of our Community Shop, in downtown Katonah, was extraordinary. The Shop, selling higher end donated clothing, has proven to be a wonderful success with proceeds going to the Center while increasing community awareness of our mission and support of our work.

We rely on the generosity of our donors along with what we are awarded through grants. We do not receive any government agency funding. Your contributions and grants and the success of the Shop made it a financially sound year. Thanks to you, we were able to both meet our costs and put some away for the important projects ahead of us.

If you have visited the Community Center recently, you may have noticed the cramped and aged condition of our little home. We are working with NYCDEP and the Town of Bedford to position ourselves to undertake renovations and an expansion. We are very pleased to report that NYC has expressed its willingness to convey ownership of the building and land of the Community Center to the Town of Bedford. For this act of generosity by NYC we are truly grateful. This will give the Town flexibility to enter into a long-term lease with the Center and give us the ability to undertake this important future project. We look forward to keeping you updated on our progress.

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to helping your neighbors!


Clare Murray
Executive Director


Philip Petronis
Board President



40%

OF THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY
POPULATION ARE IN A DAILY
STRUGGLE FOR STABILITY.

This includes not only
Families
who fall below the
poverty line but
other **WORKING
FAMILIES** whose
incomes can not keep
up with the cost of
living.

Families lack enough
income and resources
to pay for basic needs such as housing,
food, childcare & healthcare.

CCNW strives to meet the needs of **food insecure**
Northern Westchester residents who are poor,
have fallen on hard times, suffer chronic
disabilities or are seniors with fixed incomes.

CCNW

SERVES UNEMPLOYED AND UNDEREMPLOYED PERSONS,
CHILDREN, ADULTS AND SENIORS AND WE ARE COMMITTED
TO TREATING EVERY PERSON WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT.

422,193

pounds of
food were
provided



37%
served
are children

holiday
food
for



900 families

85,715



lbs. of food
recovered
& distributed

5,684

people
accessed
our resources



ESSENTIALS - FOOD



1 in 5 Westchester residents are hungry or at risk of hunger. Our pantry helps to fill the gap for over 1,600 Northern Westchester families. Our choice food pantry strives to provide enough food for these individuals and families to make it to the end of the month when their other resources have run out.

We are grateful for the generous food drives from the community and the financial contributions which allow us to purchase additional food to keep our shelves fully stocked. Last year nearly 422,193 pounds of food was distributed during 8,660 pantry visits providing families with increased stability, security and well-being. In an effort to reduce food waste we rescued over 85,000 pounds of food locally to distribute to our food insecure neighbors.

“It’s a miracle. I couldn’t live without it. It’s taken huge pressure off my everyday life, especially when you had and don’t anymore. At least we know we will have enough food to eat.”

- S.L., Chappaqua

ESSENTIALS - CLOTHING



Last year our generous local community donated 240,966 pounds of gently used clothes, shoes and linens to meet the needs of our neighbors. Clients can shop free of charge for clothing for the entire family and for all occasions including work clothing to find and keep jobs; school clothing for children; athletic attire and shoes so kids can play sports; and winter wear to stay warm.

To ensure that every donated item is put to its best use possible, clothing and linens not suited for our neighbors' immediate needs are used in our Sewing Programs and shared with other groups in our community including local veterans, Midnight Run, Rehabilitation Through the Arts, Career Closet and animal rescues.

“By the time I finish paying all my bills I have nothing left. The Community Center has allowed me to put clothes on that make me feel better about myself.”

- G.H., Peekskill

1,419 
WARM
WINTER COATS
PROVIDED

 **7,532**
Visits to
our clothing
boutique

6,507 
pairs of
shoes were
distributed

1,006 
families
received
warm bedding

975
students
were given
school supplies



95
TEENS
DRESSED
IN PROM ATTIRE



956
children
received new
Pajamas



70
STUDENTS
ATTENDED LOCAL or
SLEEP AWAY CAMP



WELL-BEING - OUR CHILDREN



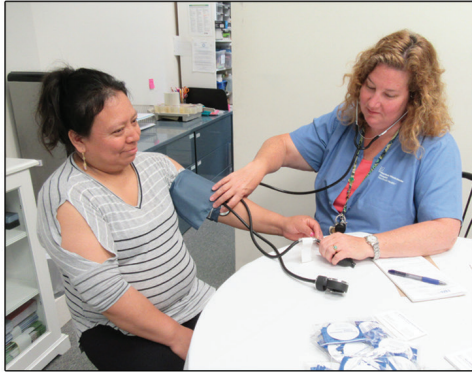
Our relationships with families have taught us that the best way to help those in financial crisis is to first meet the needs of their children, because as families struggle to make ends meet, children bear the brunt. Families report reduced stress and greater peace of mind when their children have their needs met.

For our youngest and most vulnerable clients we have diapers, wipes, baby food and formula available in our pantry, 2,000 pounds being collected and donated by our Moms 4 Moms Drive. For our school age children we offer school supplies, sleep away and local summer camp opportunities, and our Prom program provides formal wear for high school students so they can attend their Prom in style. Our Share the Warmth Drive offers new warm pajamas, coats, hats and gloves during the holidays.

“I don’t have enough money to buy presents. The new pajamas give me something to wrap and put under the tree so my children have something to open.”

- R.G., Ossining

WELL-BEING - OUR FAMILIES



The Center supports the whole community by meeting needy family's basic needs, so they have less stress, better health and can more effectively focus their efforts to achieve or return to self-sufficiency.

Programs to improve health and well-being include access to free monthly health screenings, nutrition education and flu shots provided by the outreach team from the Northern Westchester Hospital; Food for Thought workshops for parents and children teaching how to prepare healthy snacks on a low budget; hiking programs in collaboration with the Lewisboro Land Trust; and access to free eye exams and eyeglasses in partnership with Lenscrafters OneSight Foundation.

“People like me do not have the resources to get by, I can’t work because of my heart problems, it really helps to come to the Center.” - E.A., Bedford Hills

15 
individuals
received free eye
exams & eyeglasses

60 
adults
were
given flu
shots

301 
people
received free
health screenings

 **36**
attended
one of our
hiking programs

1,977
visits to our
food pantry
by seniors

seniors made
1,339
visits to our
clothing
boutique

10%
increase in seniors
who came to us for
help this year

150
"just in case"
emergency food
bags provided

WELL-BEING - OUR SENIORS



1 in 10 seniors in Westchester live in poverty. These neighbors are often struggling to stay in their homes and must make hard choices each month between paying bills, buying medicine, paying rent or putting food on their table.

Our choice pantry and clothing program help to meaningfully reduce stress for seniors by supporting their basic needs. For our homebound seniors we deliver twice monthly groceries in partnership with Meals on Wheels. For emergency use, shelf stable food bags are provided to senior clients in need.

Seniors also benefit from our computer skills instruction, job counseling, health screenings and eye exams. All are provided with assistance in accessing social services and navigating additional community resources.

“When I come here I feel like I can make choices and have a little control over my life...it makes a difference to me.”

- O.M., Katonah

WELL-BEING - ACCESS TO RESOURCES



Everyone who turns to us for help is provided loving support to overcome their unique challenges. The Center provides one-on-one support in many ways:

- Wellness coaching, GED prep, citizenship exam prep, SNAP application assistance (food stamps) and tutoring
- Furniture Exchange program which connects neighbors in need with donors
- Refurbished bicycles through the generosity of Bicycle World, Mt. Kisco
- Trusted Others - volunteers who stand with clients as they work through difficult issues
- Academic scholarships awarded to help achieve educational goals
- Assistance accessing additional community resources

“To know that there is such a thing as help and to see that it is actually available to me makes all the difference.”

- I.V., Pound Ridge

12 students were awarded scholarships



56 people received a donated bicycle



40 families received donated furniture



100% helped accessing additional community resources



SELF-SUFFICIENCY - OUR CLASSES & PROGRAMS

98 
clients helped with
job counseling

17 
completed
restaurant
skills
program

266 
people
received nutrition
education

33 
completed
Sewing & Design

52 
benefited
from OSHA &
construction
skills classes



We offer our clients the opportunity to gain the basic skills they need to secure stable employment, achieve economic self-sufficiency and improve quality of life for the entire family. CCNW's programs are unique because they are free, provide focused job skill training with bilingual instructors and provide the course content and scheduling that participants need to be successful.

- Financial literacy
- Basics of Construction
- Job search & application assistance
- Computer Skills
- OSHA safety training
- Resume writing
- English language
- Sewing and Design
- Interview preparation
- Entrepreneurship
- Restaurant Skills

“After finishing the class I have more skills. My boss is giving me more responsibility & my pay has increased a bit. That helps a lot!” - H.M., Mt. Kisco

SUPPORT - THE COMMUNITY SHOP



Thanks to the generosity of the local community close to 250,000 pounds of clothing, shoes and accessories are donated every year. These donations are made available at the Community Center, to ensure that families benefit from good quality clothing to meet their needs, at NO COST. A small percentage of the donations are made available for sale at our Community Shop, in downtown Katonah.

Proceeds from the Community Shop are used to fund Center services, helping us to keep our food pantry stocked, our programs running and our doors wide open to all who need our help.

The Shop also supports our “Makers,” students of our sewing and design courses, to showcase and sell their handmade products while developing their entrepreneurial skills to earn an income. For others, our Shop provides retail skills training to improve their employment opportunities.

“I love what we do, it’s such fun helping people find their special purchase and all the money goes to the Center!”


- J.J., volunteer

2,426

SWEATERS
& SHIRTS
SOLD



.....
 almost
1,000
people gained
awareness of
our mission

.....
22 
sewing students
sold their products

.....
 **386**
PURSES SOLD

39



community PARTNERS

Community Partners provide financial support each year, increase awareness of Center services for those in need, and encourage support within their own communities for our drives and volunteer opportunities. Thank you to our Community Partners for their continued support!

DONATED

37,746



pounds of food



5,536 lbs

of clothing, school supplies and new pajamas

SUPPORT - OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



(914) Cares

Antioch Baptist Church

Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club

Bedford Community Church

Bedford Hills Lions Club

Bedford Hills Neighborhood Assoc.

Bedford Presbyterian Church

Bet Torah

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Congregation B'nai Yisrael of Armonk

Congregation Shir Shalom of

Westchester/Fairfield Counties

First Congregational Church of

Chappaqua

Goldens Bridge Community

Association

Katonah Presbyterian Church

Katonah United Methodist Church

Katonah Village Improvement Society

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Mount Kisco

Mount Kisco Rotary Club

Northeast Westchester Rotary Club

Northern Westchester Hospital

Pound Ridge Community Church

Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco

Rippowam Cisqua School

Somers Lions Club

Somers Women's Club

South Salem Presbyterian Church

St. James Episcopal Church,

North Salem

St. John's Episcopal Church,

Lewisboro

St. Joseph's Church, Somers

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Katonah

St. Mark's Episcopal Church,

Mount Kisco

St. Mary of the Assumption Church,

Katonah

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,

Bedford

St. Patrick's Church, Bedford

Temple Beth El of N. Westchester,

Chappaqua

Temple Shaaray Tefila,

Bedford Corners

The Harvey School

United Methodist Church of

Mount Kisco

United Methodist Church of Purdys

SUPPORT - OUR VOLUNTEERS



The spirit of volunteering and caring that runs deeply through our community finds a welcome home at the Center. Volunteers of all ages, from teenagers eager to perform community service, to parents with school-aged children and retirees who have extra time, come to CCNW to give back to their community.

Many of our volunteers work to support the daily operations of the Center: receiving and sorting donations, directly assisting our families in need in our food pantry and clothing boutique, teaching classes or providing 1:1 support. Volunteers can also participate in many other ways including: working at the Community Shop, maintaining the building and grounds, recovering food from local grocery stores, packing school supplies or assisting in our fundraising efforts. Without the energy, time, skills and commitment of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, the Center simply could not do what it does.

“I’m grateful to be here, donate my time and to see people walk away with what they need!”

- K.M., volunteer

275 
ADULT
volunteers

 171
STUDENT
volunteers

 community
75 SHOP
volunteers

50,000
hours given
by members
of our local
community

SUPPORT - OUR GENEROUS DONORS

We would like to thank our donors & supporters who make our work possible.

\$10,000 - \$25,000 COMMUNITY CIRCLE

Annual pledges for 3 or more years.

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(914) Cares
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Chappaqua

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Thanks to the incredible support of our dedicated volunteers and donors we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors every year.

Your help will go a long way toward keeping our pantry shelves full, our programs running and our doors open to all who come to us for support.

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