

The Community Center of Northern Westchester depends on your generosity to help us help our neighbors in need.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate Food We Need the Most

- Canned fruit and vegetables
- Tuna and canned meat
- Cans of soup, beef stew and chili
- Pasta, rice and spaghetti sauce
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Dried and canned beans
- Fruit juice
- Hot and cold cereal
- Baby food and diapers

Donate Clean, Seasonal Clothing

We welcome donations of clean, gently used, seasonal clothing, shoes and linens. We accept warm weather clothing April through August, and cold weather clothing September through March.

We cannot accept undergarments, bathing suits, books, toys, stuffed animals or household items, such as lamps or china.

Become a Volunteer

Volunteers are the life-blood of the Center. All are welcome. Our volunteers perform a variety of tasks. They:

- Sort and distribute donated food and clothing.
- Help clients learn English and other skills.
- Keep our building and grounds in shape.
- Help raise funds for the Center.

Make a Monetary Donation

Your tax-deductible contribution supports our goal of helping less fortunate neighbors. We are grateful for all donations, large and small. You can now donate through our website. Every dollar counts!



A generous grant from MBIA Foundation helped Center clients put good nutrition on the table. MBIA's support kept the Center's Food Pantry stocked with fresh fruits and vegetables throughout the winter.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Food Pantry

Clients receive monthly supplemental food.

Clothing Boutique

Clients choose clothing, shoes, and linens.

Career Counseling

Help with job searches, resumé writing and interview skills.

Dowling Educational Scholarship

Awards in honor of Jim and Fran Dowling.

Food for Thought/Buen Provecho

"Eating Well on a Budget" workshops and client education, partnering with Sesame Workshop's initiative.

Furniture Exchange

Offers of donated furniture are matched with requests for similar items.

Health Outreach Programs

Northern Westchester Hospital and Open Door provide health screenings and flu shots.

Holiday Share and Share the Warmth

Holiday food and new warm sleepwear for children.

Lenscrafters' OneSight Foundation

Free eye exams and eyeglasses.

Prom Clothes Closet

Prom and graduation attire for local students.

School Supplies

New supplies and books fill children's backpacks.

School and Summer Camp Scholarships

As available at certain schools and camps.

Classes:

Basic Concepts of Construction

Reading blueprints and other construction skills.

Computer Training

English Language Conversation

English Literacy and Civics

Uses U.S. Civics for Immigrants curriculum.

Hands of Love Infant Massage

Techniques and benefits of infant massage.

Introduction to Hospitality Skills

How to set and serve a formal table and introduction to hospitality field.

Spanish Language for Volunteers

Spanish Literacy

Prepares students for English literacy.



Help our School Supply Drive



Each fall, the Community Center of Northern Westchester helps hundreds of students get off to a great start in school by providing packets of basic school supplies. This eases the financial burden families may face at the beginning of the school year. We gratefully accept donations of new school supply items. A donation of \$25 provides one student with basic supplies and a new reading book. For more information, or to donate on-line, visit our website: www.communitycenternw.org.

Crayola Thin Tip Markers

Crayola Box of 24 Crayons

Elmer's Glue

#2 Pencils in Packages of 12

Blue or Black Pens in Packs of 12

Plastic Folders (not paper, please)

Marble Composition Books

Colored Pencils in Packs of 12

Loose Leaf Lined Paper

Subject Dividers

Construction Paper

Toddler Crayons

Crayola Broad Tip Markers

Scotch Tape

STAY CONNECTED

The Center uses e-mail as a cost effective way to keep our donors and volunteers informed. Do we have your e-mail address? Sign up at our website: www.communitycenternw.org



Our mission:
To improve the well-being of our neighbors in need by providing food, clothing and access to other resources.

Save the Date



**Cocktail Party
and Silent Auction**
Saturday, October 15th, 2011
St. Matthew's Church,
Bedford



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@CommCtrNW

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news

from the center

Community Partners

Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills

Bedford Presbyterian Church

Bet Torah, Mount Kisco

Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Armonk

First Congregational Church of Chappaqua

First Presbyterian Church, Katonah

The Harvey School

Jewish Family Congregation, South Salem

Katonah United Methodist Church

Katonah Village Improvement Society

Mount Kisco Rotary Club

Northeast Westchester Rotary Club

Pound Ridge Community Church

Purdys United Methodist Church

Rippowam Cisqua School

Somers Rotary

St. James Episcopal Church, North Salem

St. John's Episcopal Church, South Salem

St. Joseph's Church, Croton Falls

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Katonah

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mount Kisco

St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church, Katonah

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bedford

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Bedford

South Salem Presbyterian Church

Temple Beth El of Northern Westchester, Chappaqua

Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford Corners

United Methodist Church of Mt. Kisco

Governance Changes Strengthen Center

At the Community Center's annual meeting on March 22nd, representatives from Sponsoring Organizations approved important changes to the Center's governance structure, improving the organization's ability to fulfill its mission with a more focused and well-equipped Board of Directors. A slate of 14 Directors was approved to lead the Center in the years ahead (see Meet the Center's New Board on page 3).

The changes allow for directors to be recruited from throughout the community, bringing in the skills and expertise needed to help the Center meet the evolving needs of our clients and our community. The Board of Directors will oversee Center policies, finances and operations, while

continuing to support and foster the Center's mission and values.

Community Partners (formerly called Sponsoring Organizations) will continue to serve as the backbone of the Center, as they have since our founding in 1992. Community Partners perform key responsibilities representing their organizations, including electing Directors, and approving amendments to the Center's bylaws. They will no longer be burdened with ongoing oversight of day-to-day finances or operations.

Why Changes? Why Now?

Over the past 19 years, the Center has grown dramatically both in numbers of clients served and services provided. The number of sponsoring organizations has also increased— from 10 to 28. That resulted in a large, diffuse governing

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Grants Strengthen Center Programs

A grant from Westchester Community Foundation provided funding for the "Basics of Construction" classes (pictured below left) as well as "Introduction to Hospitality Skills." Private donations to the McTavey Tyler Rebuilding Lives Fund, in memory of George McTavey, and honoring Bart and Diana Tyler, also support the Center's efforts, including "U.S. Civics for Immigrants". Connie Kamerman teaches a recent Civics class in the photo below right.





84 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536
914-232-6572 Tel
914-232-6574 Fax
www.communitycenternw.org

Hours of Operation:
Tuesday—Friday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

Donations gratefully accepted:
Tuesday—Friday
10 a.m.—3:45 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

Executive Director:
Sherry Wolf

Assistant Director for
Client Services:
Noya Guerrero

Assistant Director for
Operations:
Clare Murray



Sherry Wolf, Executive Director

body of individuals representing each of the Sponsoring Organizations, without particular regard to the Center's leadership needs. In surveys undertaken in 2010, a majority of Sponsoring Organizations rated the Center's governance structure as "not effective" or "only partly effective."

With support from a Westchester Community Foundation grant, the Center engaged goodworks Advisory Group, a consultant to non-profits, to analyze the Center's governance structure. Following extensive surveys, questionnaires and interviews with the Center's leadership, volunteers, donors and constituents, changes

to the bylaws were developed resulting in the improved Board structure.

Our Mission: Strengthened and Constant

The Center's mission remains unchanged: improving the dignity, security and well being of our neighbors in need. With stronger and more able governance, supported by the amazing generosity of the community and our outstanding corps of committed volunteers, the Center will continue as a beacon of welcome, service and dignity to all members of our community.

2010 At a Glance

Thanks to our generous Northern Westchester neighbors who:

- Volunteered at the Community Center: over 300 volunteers of all ages.
- Donated 90,761 pounds of food— 27,627 pounds in Nov and Dec alone.
- Donated 166,049 pounds of clothing, shoes, and linens.

The Community Center of Northern Westchester was able to:

- Help 1,734 households in need of supplemental food and clothing.
- Distribute food to an average of 565 households every month.
- Distribute clothing to an average of 637 households every month.
- Give new sleepwear to 563 infants, kids and teens in December.
- Provide 474 students with school supplies in the fall.
- Teach hundreds of students in our English language and conversation classes.
- Teach civics, computer skills, construction basics, hospitality, and infant massage.

Prom Clothes Closet Assists Teen Clients

End of the school year means prom time. But for many teenagers, the expense of buying dresses or renting formal wear is prohibitive. The Community Center's "Prom Clothes Closet" collects gently used prom dresses, shoes, accessories, and men's formalwear for students attending a prom or graduation celebration who cannot afford to purchase or rent these items.



Any high school student who needs this help (or the student's parent) should call the Community Center at 914-232-6572; speak to Noya Guerrero. All inquiries will be confidential and the student's privacy will be maintained.

Donations of gently used prom clothing, shoes, or accessories will be accepted during the Center's regular hours (Tues-Fri 10 to 4; Sat 10 to 1). Be sure to tell the volunteer who greets you that the items are for the Prom Clothes Closet.

Meet The Center's New Board of Directors

Sheryl Bernhard joined the Center's Board in 2002 and has been Co-Board President since 2009. A longtime Katonah resident and former registered nurse, she has been active in community parenting programs, including Family University.

Shirley Buontempo previously worked at the Center as an Associate Director for Client Services and managed programs and volunteers at Neighbors Link. She has more than 15 years of experience in marketing and advertising to the Hispanic market. Shirley joined our Board in 2007 and is currently leading the Center's "Food for Thought" nutritional education initiative.

Deborah Cerar is a licensed obstetrician/gynecologist who retired from practice after 14 years with Mt. Kisco Medical Group. Co-chair of her town's Recycling Committee and active in her temple's social action efforts, Deborah joined the Center's board last year.

Lauren Cohen has been Vice President since 2008. She has an MPA in Health Policy and Planning, 16 years of experience in health care consulting, and is the founder of Gift of Hope, providing care and treatment for HIV-infected women and children in South Africa. Lauren has served on numerous Center committees, and has co-chaired various Center drives.

Fran Dowling has been a key Center

supporter for 16 years, including serving as Board President and Vice President and leading numerous committees. A former teacher and founder of Family University, Fran has lived in the community since 1972.

J. Michael Drude is the business manager of The Harvey School, a member of the Katonah Chamber of Commerce and an active volunteer at Katonah Elementary School. Mike has served on the Center's Fundraising Committee, joining the Board in 2010.

Laura Kaplan has served on the Board since 1998 and as Co-President since 2007. Through leadership on several committees and drives, Laura has been instrumental in the Center's evolution. A 25-year Katonah resident, she has been active in numerous school district committees and initiatives.

Joni Martino brought her financial and accounting skills to the Center in 2009, assisting our current Treasurer. Joni's background includes an MBA from UCLA, with a focus on Latin America. She resides in South Salem.

MaryEllen McLaughlin, a software engineer and Katonah resident, joined the Board in 2008 and has coordinated numerous Center activities, including the website and e-communications. She served on the Board's Strategic Transition Committee.

Manuel Mendez, originally from Colombia, lives in Somers and worked in a variety of positions at IBM for 31 years in both Latin America and the U.S. Soon after volunteering at the Center in 2008, Manuel started teaching Spanish classes for volunteers.

Barbara Murphy, who worked at IBM and who now works in Adult Education at Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES, has been Secretary of the Board since 2010.

Chris Perkins, a trader at Platinum Partners hedge fund, has been a Board member since 2008. He introduced a summer camp scholarship program and has served on the Strategic Transition Committee.

Lisa Raue has been using her strong background in finance and banking to improve the Center's donor acknowledgement and information processing systems. A past President of the Board of Trustees at the Bedford Hills Free Library, Lisa also serves on the board of CLC Foundation and Bedford Hills Historical Museum.

Alicia Sandberg is a partner in a law firm specializing in immigration law. She is Event Coordinator for Westchester's Christmas Dinner in Katonah and previously served as a Director of the Community YMCA of Northern Westchester.

Volunteers: The Lifeblood of the Center

Every day at the Community Center, volunteers make things happen. Over three hundred volunteers throughout the year receive and sort food and clothing donations, teach classes, run special programs, maintain our building and grounds, and distribute food and clothing to approximately 150 families each week. Many volunteers work behind the scenes, raising funds for the Center and serving on Board committees.

People of every age—from teens to octogenarians, stay-at-home moms to recent retirees—enthusiastically give of their time and energy. A community tradition of giving back pervades the Center, as old timers embrace young volunteers and new helpers learn from the experienced. Volunteers create an atmosphere of generosity and goodwill as they assist our clients, and in the process, create new friendships and caring relationships with each other.

The Center is deeply grateful to all who give of their time. The tasks they perform make them invaluable. The grace with which they perform these tasks make them extraordinary. Thanks, Volunteers!



Christina Rae and Bob Lovett



Doreen Gadigan with a Center client



Wayne Grossman and Alison Giglio



Sarah Leitner and Herno Smith



David Barnes and Luca Barone

IN MEMORIAM

This year, we mourned the loss of a true Community Center angel: Ralph Van Sicklin. Ralph's vision and perseverance saved the King House in Katonah from destruction so that it could become the Community Center's home. For this epic act, and for all his work on behalf of the Center's mission, our community will forever be grateful.

