COMMUNITY CENTER
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

SPRING 2015

Sharing the Essentials of Living with Neighbors in Need

CENTER DELIVERIES EASE HUNGER FOR HOMEBOUND SENIORS

SOMERS SENIOR ANITA FAHS RECEIVES COMMUNITY CENTER GROCERIES FROM MEALS ON WHEELS VOLUNTEER BOBBE STULTZ.

The Community Center is branching out to ease hunger for seniors in our communities, partnering with senior programs to bring supplemental groceries via Meals on Wheels to seniors and the homebound in villages and hamlets within Somers, Lewisboro and Bedford. Volunteers in these communities, who deliver hot meals on weekdays to seniors and others who are homebound, deliver Community Center groceries to help tide these seniors over during weekends and holidays twice a month. Our grocery bundles include fixings for light meals and snacks that require little or no cooking.

If you are a senior, or are homebound for any reason, and need extra food—or if you know someone who has such needs—call the Center at 914-232-6572 and speak to Noya Guerrero, or contact us at info@communitycenternw.org.

CENTER WINS HUNGER HEROES AWARD

The Community Center has won the 2015 Food Bank for Westchester Hunger Heroes Award for Service Provider—an award that recognizes "exceptional efforts to fight hunger in Westchester County." Thanks to everyone whose support makes our good works possible.

HOW WE'RE HELPING WORKERS GET—AND SAFELY STAY ON—A JOB

This spring, the Center expanded its Construction Skills curriculum, adding a rigorous two-day Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) course in construction site safety. A perfect capstone to the Center's ten-week course imparting basic practical construction skills, OSHA-authorized instructors provided these students – men and women – with hands-on training in recognizing, avoiding, and preventing construction safety hazards on the job site. This training helps ensure that workers are knowledgeable about workplace hazards as well as their rights, and enhances their productivity.

By completing the OSHA training course and gaining these safety skills, our students will get a coveted OSHA card – a valuable tool, not only for landing a job, but for safely staying on the job, and for generating income for their families. Yet another way we're making a difference together: bringing occupational safety and with it, greater income stability, into the lives of our neighbors in need.

CENTER AWARDS 2015 HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

We are pleased to announce this year's recipients of the Dowling Family Educational Scholarship Awards. This program, now in its seventh year, was established to support and encourage Center clients of limited means who are pursuing higher education. Seated front row left to right: recipients Johana Ovillo, Dayana Garces, Madelin Bu Munoz, Ana Cabrera, Maria Panza. Back row left to right: Assistant Director Noya Guerrero, Scholarship Committee chair Lindsay Bates; scholarship recipients Mateo Ledesma Moreno, Hugo Manco, Henry Martinez, David Annunziato; and Scholarship Committee members Fran and Jim Dowling.

MAKING PROM DREAMS REAL

Each spring, the Center and the community come together to help local students with limited income obtain that special outfit they need to realize their prom or graduation dreams. We pass along donated formal attire, including shoes and accessories, free of charge. The Elephant's Trunk in Mt. Kisco hosts a private after-hours dress-fitting, where Center volunteers help fit thrilled students with their prom and graduation dresses, all while respecting their desire and need for personal privacy – an important and constant priority for our program.

CENTER WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

The Center welcomes Phil Petronis to its Board of Directors. A longtime Katonah resident, Phil was a senior insurance executive with Marsh & McLennan, and also brings extensive experience from his service on boards of numerous organizations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills
Bedford Hills Lions Club
Bedford Hills Neighborhood Association
Bedford Presbyterian Church
Bet Torah, Mount Kisco
The Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs
Congregation B'nai Yisrael of Armonk
First Congregational Church of Chappaqua
First Presbyterian Church of Katonah
The Harvey School
Jewish Family Congregation, South Salem
Katonah United Methodist Church
Katonah Village Improvement Society
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Mount Kisco Rotary Club
Northeast Westchester Rotary Club
Pound Ridge Community Church
Rippowam Cisqua School
Somers Lions Club
Somers Women's Club
St. James Episcopal Church, North Salem
St. John's Episcopal Parish, 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 and Parish, 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 Mount Kisco
United Methodist Church of Purdys

OUR MISSION

The Community Center of Northern Westchester seeks to improve the well-being and self-sufficiency of neighbors in need by providing food, clothing, programs, and other resources.

10 FACTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN 2014

- Over 2,000 families came to us for help in 2014, 12 times the number that came to the Center in 1992.
- We help neighbors in need from 38 communities in Northern Westchester.
- Our food-insecure neighbors made 7,565 visits to our Food Pantry.
- 35% of those who received food from the Center's Food Pantry are children.
- Over 89 tons of clothes, shoes, and linens were donated; families made 7,626 visits to our Clothing Boutique.
- 734 children received new school supplies.
- 910 children received new sleepwear for the holidays.
- More than 1,000 adults attended classes and workshops to improve their practical skills.
- Volunteers gave over 50,000 hours of service.
- Over the Center's 22 years, families have made 104,000 visits to our Food Pantry.

SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE

YOUTH SOCCER TEAM PUTS CHARITY INTO PRACTICE

The Blue Devils, a travel soccer team of 20 boys in grades 8 to 10 from across our Northern Westchester communities, volunteered with us one Saturday morning. Team coach Vincent Kwarula, a former captain of the Kenyan National soccer team, inspired his young players to put charity into practice, sprucing up the Center, inside and out, including stacking food in our pantry. They're stars in our book.

SOMERS HIGH SCHOOL CLUB BUYS DIAPERS FOR YOUNG FAMILIES IN NEED

Students Taking Action Today Club (STAT), a Somers High School club, chose the Community Center as the local charity that will benefit from their efforts this year. The club is raising funds to buy diapers for our pantry, to help young Northern Westchester families. We are so grateful for this tremendous effort on the Community Center's behalf!

BIRTHDAY GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Brothers Will and Jay Gereghty (pictured center and right) and their friend Campbell Gervais (left), decided to celebrate their birthdays by collecting food, winter clothing and children's books, in lieu of receiving gifts, and donating them to the Center. These kids got it: better to give than to receive.

SO MANY WAYS TO HELP. GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT HOW.

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD

CLOTHING, SHOES & LINENS

SKILLS CLASSES & PROGRAMS

- Career and job counseling
- Construction skills program
- Computer training
- English language instruction
- GED & citizenship exam preparation
- Starting and running a small business

COMMUNITY-WIDE DRIVES & PROGRAMS

- School supplies
- Prom and graduation attire for local students
- Food drives for Thanksgiving and winter holidays
- New children's pajamas for winter holidays

HEALTH & NUTRITION

- Northern Westchester Hospital health screenings and flu shots
- Nutrition education for families
- Breast cancer awareness workshops

OTHER SERVICES AND RESOURCES

- Tax preparation assistance
- College application assistance
- Educational scholarships
- Summer camp opportunities
- Lenscrafters OneSight Foundation eye exams and glasses
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) assistance
- Donated furniture exchange
- Immigration updates

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE

We provide new school supplies to hundreds of families of limited means, so their kids can get off to a great start in the fall. For a list of what we especially need, visit our website.

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED DURING CENTER HOURS

Tuesday - Friday:
10 AM to 4 PM
Saturday:
10 AM to 1 PM

COMMUNITY CENTER
OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER
Sharing the Essentials of Living

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Our community's generosity comes to our door.

IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMUNITY CENTER

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Benefit
Cocktail Party & Auction
October 3, 2015
Join us for a fun-filled evening!

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DONATE

Donate online at:
communitycenternw.org.

Or send your tax-deductible donation by mail:

Community Center of Northern Westchester
84 Bedford Road
Katonah, NY 10536.

For more information, visit
communitycenternw.org
or call **914-232-6572**

We help seniors, too. Contact us.