



# annual report

84 Bedford Rd | Katonah, NY 10536 914.232.6572 communitycenternw.org

## appreciating our community

# thankful



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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

We never expected COVID to impact our world for so long. In 2020 we kept holding on to the hope that if we could get through the year, serving more people than ever in highly modified ways, that we would return to supporting our community in a familiar fashion soon. We did not anticipate that 2021 would be equally difficult. COVID through a second year continued to result in loss of health, loss of income, loss of social contact, loss of learning and loss of opportunity to so many in our community.

The Community Center continued to adapt to the ever-changing environment and needs of our neighbors, and we were able to provide resources and support in a safe manner for clients, volunteers and staff. The Center was and still remains essential for so many households and we are truly grateful for your support in helping us to meet their needs.

Whether in need of food or clothing assistance, help in accessing COVID vaccinations and testing, referrals to other service providers, support in completing applications for social services and benefits or help with job searches and skill building classes, you enabled us to provide a safe haven for all and offer the supports necessary for families to start to stabilize their lives.

The crisis that the COVID-19 pandemic created is deep and far-reaching. For many families, the journey back to self-reliance will be a long one. The Community Center is committed to standing with our neighbors through this process and we thank you for standing with us.

In the words of a single mom, out of work due to her mental health crisis and yet needing to care for her young son and elderly mother, "It has been very difficult for us. We could use the extra love right now."

Your care and compassion make our community a better place for everyone.

With love and appreciation,

Clare Munay Clare Murray

**Executive Director** 

**Board President** 

## our mission

CCNW 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 and organizations in the communities we serve.

# security

# 9.4% OF WESTCHESTER RESIDENTS LIVED IN POVERTY LAST YEAR

36% of families who are food insecure don't qualify for government nutrition programs



"The Center has kept me going despite the pandemic. With much heartfelt appreciation for the compassion all of you have given me...it has truly shown me that angels are real!"

CCNW provides a hub of emergency resources and access to the supports needed to improve the WELL-BEING and SELF-SUFFICIENCY of our neighbors in need.

# STABILITY FOR WELL-BEING:

Providing basic needs and essential support to improve health, well-being and stability.

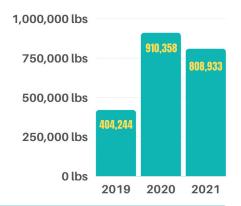
- Social Support
- Food
- Clothing
- Home Deliveries
- School supplies & seasonal drives
- Summer Camp
- Health Screening, Wellness programs and nutrition education
- Individual support in navigating available resources – medical, legal, immigration, social services and benefits, SNAP
- Referrals

# **OPPORTUNITY FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY:**

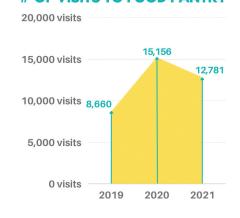
Providing opportunity to build capacity for self reliance through empowerment and education.

- Empowerment
- Job counseling
- Job skills training classes
- Pipeline to employers
- · Language and computer skills
- Financial literacy
- Entrepreneurship training
- · Sewing and Design
- OSHA certification
- Academic Scholarships
- Tutoring

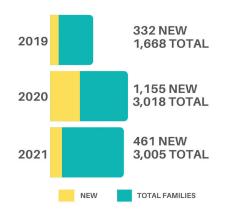
#### POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED



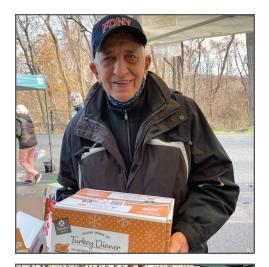
#### **# OF VISITS TO FOOD PANTRY**



#### **NUMBER OF FAMILIES SERVED**



# stability







"When COVID hit I felt very isolated. I don't have a car or internet, but the Center called and asked how I was doing and if I needed help. I am thankful for the support and kindness shown.

I no longer feel alone."

40% OF THOSE AT RISK FOR HUNGER FALL OUTSIDE SNAP (FOOD STAMPS) ELIGIBILITY AND MUST MAKE HARD DECISIONS EACH MONTH BETWEEN PAYING BILLS, PURCHASING MEDICINE, OR BUYING FOOD FOR THEIR FAMILIES.

# fighting hunger

The goal of our **Food Market** is to mitigate food insecurity among low-income, vulnerable Northern Westchester residents. By receiving essential food support families can gain stability and more easily focus on achieving self-sufficiency. We are open five days per week to make it easier for families to access food, especially during times of crisis. For those without transportation, vulnerable seniors or those sick or in quarantine, our volunteers deliver groceries tailored to their needs directly to their homes.

#### In 2021:

- CCNW met a critical need for 2,992 families in Northern Westchester
- Food insecurity was reduced for 663 seniors
- 3,415 children received our food support
- 12,781 food pantry visits/home deliveries were made
- · Over 800,000 lbs. of food were distributed
- Serving on average 951 families and registering 47 new families monthly
- 1,177 families received additional food for the holidays
- Over 100 deliveries made to quarantined families with limited means (referred by NY State contact tracers) throughout N. Westchester

## supplying essentials

CCNW supports families who are struggling to make ends meet by providing access to good quality, free-of-charge clothing; including work clothing needed to find and keep jobs; school clothing for children; athletic attire and shoes so kids can participate in sports; and warm winter clothing for the entire family. Through our seasonal drives the community generously provides school supplies to help children succeed in school and cozy blankets to keep them warm through the winter.

#### In 2021:

- 4,724 visits were made to our Clothing Boutique
- 5,836 pairs of shoes and 1,813 winter coats were received by neighbors
- 1,642 school age children were provided with brand new school supplies
- 1,500 children received new blankets, hats, gloves & socks for the holidays

# well-being

95% OF PARENTS REPORT: THEIR CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM IMPROVED NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING AND THAT RECEIVING FOOD ASSISTANCE AND SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED TO DECREASED FEELINGS OF WORRY AND STRESS.

## supporting health

The Center strives to improve the physical and mental health of our neighbors by providing access to free health screenings and education, nutritious foods, outdoor activities, and a variety of health resources.

#### In 2021:

- Flu shots for over 100 individuals given by NWH Community Health Team
- Provided 345 individuals access to COVID vaccines and tests
- Access to free eye exams and eyeglasses in partnership with LensCrafters
- · Nutrition counseling to support individuals
- · Family hiking programs with Lewisboro Land Trust
- 27 children attended sleep away or local summer camps

## meeting individual needs

One-on-one support is offered to anyone who needs help working through difficult situations and loving assistance is provided to overcome their unique challenges.

We are grateful to collaborate with a host of agencies and organizations throughout Westchester to meet the varied needs of our clients through seamless referrals.

We work with Northern Westchester Hospital, Open Door Medical Centers, LensCrafters OneSight Foundation, A Home, Hudson Valley Justice Center, Legal Services of Hudson Valley, Neighbors Link, MHA of Westchester, Hope's Door, ReSET Westchester, Emergency Shelter Partnership, Meals On Wheels, local towns and schools, to name but a few.

#### In 2021:

- Over 1,000 clients were provided with 1:1 case management
- 663 seniors received emotional support and had their basic needs met
- 461 new families came to the Center for help in 2021
- 840 home deliveries were made, tailored to meet individual needs
- 100's of families were provided assistance navigating social services







"I'm disabled and CCNW is a big help for me with getting food & clothing. I appreciate the volunteers & staff. They treat me with compassion & respect,

I love it here."

# empowerment







"I came to CCNW to take sewing classes, which helped me to learn a new skill to make a living. Now I am selling my products at the Studio. Thank you!"

9.4% OF THE POPULATION IN WESTCHESTER (APPROXIMATELY 89,216 PEOPLE) LIVED AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE IN 2021.

## working together

**The Community Studio** was made possible in the summer of 2021 thanks to a remarkable gift from a generous local donor who underwrote renovation costs and rent for a year. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who helped to transform it to meet our needs, and the support of Firestein Property Management who worked with us to make it possible.

Opening in September 2021, it enabled us to resume holding our workforce development classes in a large studio setting with more space, better ventilation and improved safety for all and incorporate a dedicated retail space for showcasing and selling student artistry.

We are grateful to the countless volunteers who donate their time and skills to support our retail space and teach our programs.

## creating opportunities

Classes and workshops are designed to improve economic opportunities and include job counseling and job skills training - such as Sewing and Design, construction skills, OSHA certification, language & computer skills and entrepreneurship training.

Visitors to the retail space support our Makers by purchasing the students' beautiful handmade items. Every sale at the Studio lifts a person facing financial hardship.

#### In 2021 (Sept.-Dec.):

- 22 Makers (Sewing and Design students) earned an income selling their handmade products
- Makers have earned over \$9,000 from retail sales at the Studio
- 495 handcrafted products were sold at the Community Studio
- 40% of products are up-cycled from re-purposed materials
- This December, Makers sales were 8 times higher than in December 2020

Visit the Community Studio at 284 Katonah Avenue, Katonah, NY 10536. Our current hours of operation are Tuesday through Friday 10AM - 4PM and Saturday 10AM - 1PM. You can reach the Studio by telephone at 914.301.5417.

# self-sufficiency

39% OF AMERICANS DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH MONEY ON HAND TO COVER A \$400 EMERGENCY.

## teaching skills

CCNW offers targeted training for our clients to gain the skills they need to secure stable employment, earn higher pay and improve quality of life for the entire family. Our programs are free, provide focused job skill training with bilingual instructors and provide the course content and scheduling that participants need to be successful.

COVID limited our ability to hold some of our programs in person but we are looking forward to offering our full roster of classes and workshops again soon.

#### In 2021, Despite COVID:

- 65 adults participated in our job skills training programs
- 22 students attended Sewing and Design classes
- 27 unemployed adults gained new jobs with our help
- 23 individuals improved their English language skills with our teachers
- 100% felt empowered by learning new skills

## achieving goals

Our Dowling Educational Scholarship Program is a natural extension of our long-held commitment to equipping our neighbors with the resources they need to achieve financial stability.

CCNW receives applications for its scholarship program from families who use our services. Each of our scholarship recipients had an inspiring story to share of their educational dreams to improve themselves and their families' lives. Through hard work and determination, often managing school and jobs, these students are well deserving of support.

#### In 2021:

- 14 applicants received a scholarship to help them on their educational path
- Scholarship recipients planned to study music, criminal justice, nursing, graphic design, psychology, robotics/engineering and more
- Students were accepted at a variety of schools, including University of Rochester, Cornell University, Middlebury College, and SUNY-Oswego
- 2 mature scholarship recipients were seeking to earn an advanced credential or skill, including one in dental hygiene and one in construction management







"Thanks to the help of CCNW and this scholarship, I am able to attend an extraordinary program, and try with every opportunity to pursue my dreams in the city of my dreams."

# engagement







"It is amazing to walk into a place where every volunteer or staff member is here for one reason, to help!"

ON AVERAGE FAMILIES ARE SPENDING \$276.00 EXTRA PER MONTH DUE TO RISING COSTS.

# community partners

30 years ago, CCNW was founded through the collaboration of a small group of religious organizations (our Community Partners), who recognized that together we can do a lot more than we can do alone. CCNW now has 41 Community Partners who help sustain us by providing annual financial contributions, volunteer service, and support of our seasonal drives.

(914) CARES

Antioch Baptist Church
Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club
Bedford Community Church

Bedford Hills Lions Club

Bedford Hills Neighborhood Assoc.

Bedford Hills Woman's Club

Bedford Presbyterian Church Bedford Village Lions Club

Bet Torah

Congregation B'nai Yisrael of Armonk

Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester/Fairfield

First Congregational Church of Chappaqua Goldens Bridge Community Assoc.

Good For Kids

Katonah Presbyterian Church

Katonah United Methodist Church

Katonah Village Improvement Society

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Mount Kisco Rotary Club

Northern Westchester Hospital

Pound Ridge Community Church Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco

Rippowam Cisqua School

Somers Lions Club

Somers Women's Club

South Salem Presbyterian Church

St. John's Episcopal Parish

St. Joseph's Church

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

St. Mary of the Assumption Church

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

St. Patrick's Church

Temple Beth El of N. Westchester

Temple Shaaray Tefila

The Church of the Good Shepherd

The Harvey School

United Methodist Church of

Mount Kisco

United Methodist Church of Purdys

Westchester Land Trust

#### In 2021:

- \$55,000 in financial support received from our Community Partners
- 47,211 pounds of food were donated through their food drives
- 100's of hours of volunteer time given by Community Partner members

Thank you to our Community Partners for all you do!

# caring

IN 2021, THE ESTIMATED NATIONAL VALUE OF EACH U.S. VOLUNTEER HOUR WAS \$28.54.

# volunteer support

Our dedicated volunteers are the life-blood of the Center. They make everything we do possible; we could not function without the time, energy and commitment they generously provide. Volunteers of all ages - teenagers, parents of school-aged children, and retirees - want to give back to their community by donating their time to the Center. Thank you to all our committed neighbors who have been volunteering and helping the Center to remain open throughout the pandemic!

#### In 2021:

- Over 30 Volunteers a day help to keep the Center's programs running
- Volunteers distributed 808,933 pounds of food to families in need
- 23,244 hours of volunteer time were given on-site to keep our doors open
- Volunteers accepted, sorted and distributed 250,000 pounds of gently used clothes, shoes and linens to meet the needs of our neighbors

## community support

We are so grateful for the continued support from our community. Generous food donations and financial contributions helped us to keep our pantry full with nutritious food; fresh vegetables, dairy, meats, eggs, shelf stable and prepared meals. Clothing donations enabled us to offer free-of-charge clothing, and seasonal drives provided new school supplies and Share the Warmth for our children and additional holiday foods for all our neighbors.

#### In 2021:

- 232,116 pounds of food was donated to the Center
- 251,337 pounds of clothing was donated to the Center
- Generous food donations meet 30% of our need, however we must still purchase 70% to keep pantry shelves filled
- 145,00 pounds of food was donated by grocery stores and organizations
- 15,244 pounds of food was recovered through local partnerships
- Area farms donated almost 10,000 pounds of organic fresh produce

Thank you, we truly can do a lot more together than apart!







for over 10 years, and have found my involvement here to be one of the most enriching aspects of my life.

# support







"I love the Community Center because they are so holistic in how they treat each family who comes through the doors."

21 BILLION POUNDS OF TEXTILE WASTE END UP IN LANDFILLS EVERY YEAR. THE AVERAGE US CITIZEN THROWS AWAY 70 POUNDS OF TEXTILES ANNUALLY.

## funding center programs

**Our Community Shop**, which was opened in 2019, offers a small percentage of higher end donated items for sale to the general public and has been a remarkable success. All proceeds from the Community Shop are used to fund Center services, helping us to keep our food pantry stocked, our classes and programs running and our doors open to all who need our help.

In addition, the Shop promotes reusing and recycling, provides increased volunteer opportunities, enhances public awareness of our mission and creates a closer relationship with our local business district.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who donate their time to help sort, tag and hang clothing or work directly with customers; to the community who shop at our store; and to Urstadt Biddle Properties who generously support our venture.

#### In 2021:

- Our generous community donated over 250,000 pounds of gently used clothes, shoes and linens to meet the needs of our neighbors.
- Less than 5% of donations are made available for sale at the Shop
- Over 14,000 items were sold at the Shop last year
- 1,422 customers made purchases
- 632 of our customers were repeat shoppers

#### The Impact of Community Shop purchases:

\$25 SALE: Provides breakfast, lunch and dinner for a family of 4

Covers new school supplies for one local child

\$50 SALE: Supplies meat and fresh eggs for 10 local families

Offers hiking and wellness programs for 3 families

\$100 SALE: Funds an entrepreneurial program for one individual

Delivers supplemental food for 4 homebound seniors

\$250 SALE: Supplies diapers and wipes for a baby's first 6 months

Provides 5 families with additional holiday foods

Visit the Community Shop at 196 Katonah Avenue, Katonah, NY 10536. Our current hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 11AM - 5PM. You can reach the Shop by telephone at 914.401.9163.

# together

\$88,000 PER YEAR IS NEEDED FOR A FAMILY OF FOUR IN WESTCHESTER TO COVER THE BASIC COSTS OF FOOD, HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTHCARE AND CHILDCARE.

## community connectedness

The Community Center strengthens the Northern Westchester community by meeting the needs of local struggling families so they have less stress, better health and can more effectively focus on their efforts to achieve or return to self-sufficiency.

The entire community benefits from the overall sense of connectedness and well-being that comes from bringing volunteers, community agencies and businesses together to help provide basic services and enhance quality of life for everyone.

To ensure that all donations to CCNW are put to the best use possible we work with other local organizations when the generosity of our community exceeds our immediate needs. We have shared formal wear with Community Living Corp., costumes with Rehabilitation Through the Arts, coats and sweatshirts with Midnight Run, children's supplies with schools serving low income families, books with our local prisons, and used blankets and towels with local animal shelters.

We are grateful for every donation and pleased to be able to support the wider community as able.

# grant funders

We would like to thank the organizations and foundations who supported us this year and made such an impact in meeting the needs of our community.







































































"The Center helped me get a new job and I don't need to come anymore. I am proud, I feel free."

# generosity

Our community continued their extraordinary generosity in 2021; without it our important work would not be possible. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR LOVING SUPPORT!

## the community circle:

**The Community Circle** is a special group of donors who make generous multi-year pledges with a goal to ensure the continuation of the Center's crucial Food Program regardless of changes in the economic or political climate that may affect annual giving and may influence the number of families in need.

Joy and David Brenner Lauren and Gary Cohen Liz and Jim Gereghty Deirdre and Jim Glascott Laura and Joel Kaplan Deborah Klugman and Thomas Trimble Sasa and Hsin Chieh Lin Anne and Philip Petronis

Vicki and Stuart Marwell

Suzanne Sunday and Ken Kurzweil

The Thompson Family **Foundation** 

#### \$50,000+

Louis & Anne Abrons Foundation Joy and David Brenner Stephanie DiChristina Barbara and Charles Tisi

#### \$25,000-\$50,000

Stewart and Susan Alpert Jefferies Financial Group Deb Klugman and Thomas Trimble Carlyn McCaffrey Ted and Tracy McCourtney Morgan Stanley Foundation Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust Lisa and Mark Schwartz Suzanne Sunday and Ken Kurzweil The Thompson Family Foundation

#### \$10,000-\$25,000

(914) Cares ACME Markets Foundation Aegon Transamerica Foundation Aging in America Albertsons Companies Foundation Roger Altman James Attwood and Leslie Williams John Beach and Maggie Nielsen Gary and Lauren Cohen Curtis Instruments Inc. Episcopal Charities Diocese of NY Mary Ann Erlanger Field Hall Foundation Ari and Becki Fleischer Laurance and Mindy Friedman George Link Jr. Charitable Trust Elizabeth and James Gereghty Deirdre and James Glascott David and Becky Gochman James Greenebaum and Jane Cooper Laura and Joel Kaplan Sasa and Hsin Chieh Lin Peter and Susan Macgill Ioanne Marien Victoria and Stuart Marwell MBIA Foundation Newell Brands Charitable Foundation Tina Theurkauf Philip and Anne Petronis Phelps Community Corporation Bruce and Karen Sabath Alan Schwartz and Nancy Seaman Allison Shure Jeffrey Tannenbaum and Nisa Geller The Thomas and Agnes Carvel Foundation Marten and Marianne Van der Werff

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#### \$5,000-\$10,000

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#### our donors

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We would like to take a moment to say thank you to your staff as well as your donors. As a family of four, living in Pound Ridge, we have taken a huge financial hit due to COVID issues. The Center has gone above and beyond for us and for so many of our neighbors in the surrounding area. We could never have anticipated these trying times as we have been on the other side, supporting and donating to the Center for many years.

With the help of the Center, friends and loved ones, we're looking forward to getting back on our feet shortly. With that, we also are looking forward to once again being able to give back to the community that has so graciously given to us.

I think it's important for your donors to know the impact they have on the community. We are their friends (though when in this position people don't talk about it), we are their neighbors, we are in line at the food store or at the gas station. So, to those that donate financially as well as those that donate their time...thank you just doesn't seem to say enough, but THANK YOU!

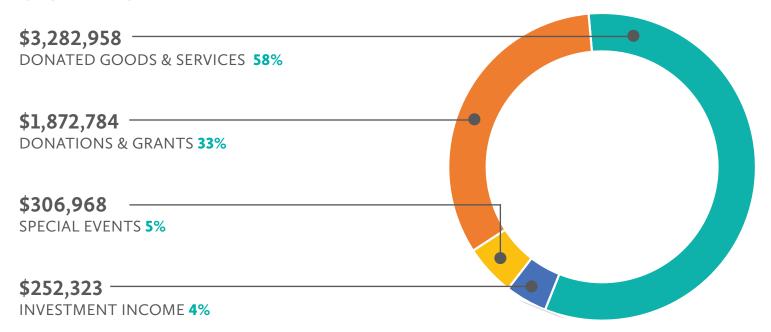
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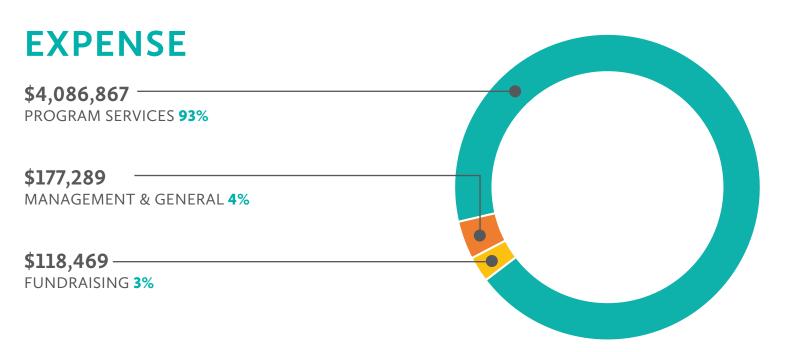
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Thanks to the support of dedicated volunteers and generous donors we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors; providing care, compassion, and hope when it's needed most.

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