



community center  
of northern westchester  
*neighbors helping neighbors*



# Annual Report *2010*

## *Our Mission:*

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

# A Letter from the Co-Presidents



Dear Friends, Neighbors and Supporters:

The Community Center of Northern Westchester has recorded another year of growth: in clients served, in programs offered, in volunteer hours, and in donations received. In the 19 years since religious and civic groups came together to address local needs, the Community Center has become a beacon for caring and compassion in our community.

Our original Food Pantry and Clothing Boutique, bustling with volunteers and clients every day, continue as core services. But we've actively grown other programs that take our mission— Neighbors Helping Neighbors— to the next level as we help our clients help themselves. Language classes, job skills workshops, health screenings and other services give our clients the tools they need to stabilize and improve their personal situations. Our focus throughout 2010 was the continued growth and expansion of these programs, which are described in the pages of this report.

The past year also included an intensive effort to analyze and improve the Center's governance structure. In March 2011, representatives of the Center's Sponsoring Organizations elected 14 Directors to lead the Center as we meet the evolving needs of our clients and our community. Our Sponsoring Organizations, now re-named Community Partners, will continue as the backbone of the Center, leading donation drives, recruiting volunteers and keeping their religious, civic and school groups actively involved in the Center's work.

It is those Community Partners, as well as the hundreds of volunteers who give of their time and talent in diverse ways, who form the true heart of the Center. We are grateful to the wide community of supporters, including our generous financial donors, who continue to make the Community Center a place of welcome and support, offering dignity and a path to a brighter future for all our clients.

We look forward to another year of service to our community.

With Warm Regards,  
*Sheryl Bernhard and Laura Kaplan*  
Co-Presidents



Co-Presidents Laura Kaplan and Sheryl Bernhard

## 2010 At a Glance

### Essentials of Living

- Supplemental food and clothing provided to more than 1,700 households
- 6,785 visits to the Center's Food Pantry
- 14% more people received food compared to the previous year
- 21% more children received food compared to the previous year
- 7,642 visits to our Clothing Boutique

### Programs and Services

- Classes to enhance employment skills and opportunities
- A variety of English language classes offered each week
- Career counseling helps with job searches, resume writing and interview skills
- Computer training for all skill levels
- Health screenings provided by Northern Westchester Hospital
- Free eye exams and eyeglasses
- Matched donated furniture with families in need of those items
- Awarded school and summer camp scholarships
- Infant massage classes help new parents
- Dowling Educational Scholarship awarded to deserving students

### Generous Donors and Enthusiastic Volunteers

- Donated 166,049 pounds of clothing, shoes and household linens
- Donated 90,761 pounds of food, including holiday specialties
- Provided new school supplies and reading books for 474 students
- Provided new sleepwear and fleece garments for 563 children
- Volunteers worked 9,065 hours during Center hours of operation
- Worked countless volunteer hours in food drives, fundraising and other activities supporting the Center

*"The Center is a comforting place where we have found not only food and clothing, but also support and friendly advice for my worries and concerns." L.A.*

## Our Food Pantry

The Center provides supplemental food to people in need in Northern Westchester. Throughout 2010, volunteer food drives helped stock the pantry shelves. The Center also received a grant from the MBIA Foundation, Inc., to purchase fresh produce during the winter months.

*"I only come here when I really need the help...I take only what I need...the children need it more than me. The people are very nice here, and I feel very comfortable here, very much at home. " Dorothy P.*



## Our Clothing Boutique

Seasonal, gently used clothing, shoes and linens are available to clients at no cost.

*"In the Clothing Boutique we have been able to get clothing for all occasions, for work and daily life, and for our children, too. " D.R.*





## Seasonal and Special Drives

Throughout the year, the Center runs special drives for food, clothing and other needs, including Holiday Share, Share the Warmth for new sleepwear, Prom Clothes Closet and School Supplies Drive.

*“The Center allowed me to feel special the day of my prom by helping me find a fabulous dress I would not have been able to afford.” L.F.*



## Additional Services for Clients

The Center offers special services in partnership with providers from our community. In 2010, these included health screenings at the Center (blood pressure checks, flu shots, etc.) and free eye exams from LensCrafters and OneSight Foundation.

*“For me, expenses exceed income....I needed bifocals and I am very grateful for the chance to get these glasses. I would have no other opportunity to get them except through the Community Center and LensCrafters. I also appreciate the chance to get food and bread...it is a big help. I am glad you are here.” Bob*

## Expanding Programs and Classes

The Center offers classes and services to help our clients achieve or return to self-sufficiency. In 2010, we expanded our instructional offerings, which now include:

- Basic Concepts of Construction and Cost Estimation
- Computer Training
- English Conversation and U.S. Civics for Immigrants
- Career and Job Counseling
- Introduction to Hospitality Skills
- Spanish for Volunteers
- Spanish Literacy
- *Hands of Love* Infant Massage

Volunteers make many of these services and classes possible by donating their time, skills and enthusiasm.

*“This [U.S. Civics for Immigrants] course is important to me because I need to learn more English. People have told me that my English is better now. This course is beautiful and very special for me.” Ruth*



## Helping Clients Attain Self-Sufficiency

*“I learned about the scales and how to design inside rooms...and I have also learned about rafters, headers and outside design, as well. I am thankful because I didn’t know any of this before...In the future I hope that others have the opportunity ...I thank the Community Center from the bottom of my heart.”*  
Construction course graduate

Providing tools and skills to rebuild or improve lives was a key focus for the Center in 2010. Grants from the Westchester Community Foundation and the McTavey Tyler Program Fund helped underwrite the cost of our expanding classes and programs, including the popular Basic Concepts of Construction and Cost Estimation courses.



## Food for Thought: Teaching Nutrition on a Budget

Partnering with Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind *Sesame Street*, the Center has been presenting *Food for Thought: Eating Well on a Budget* workshops at various locations throughout the area. This bilingual (English-Spanish) outreach helps families cope with uncertain or limited access to affordable and nutritious food.



*“I am humbled and very happy that our (Rotary) Club can be part of such a fantastic program. The work you do is truly making a difference and watching your staff interacting with your clients is amazing and convinced me that our donations are really put to good use. I applaud all the staff and volunteers for their efforts and hard work to help others.”* Christian Brutzer, President 2011/2012 NE Westchester Rotary Club



# Board of Directors Community Partners

## Board of Directors

Sheryl Bernhard (Co-President)	Shirley Buontempo	Manuel Mendez
Laura Kaplan (Co-President)	Deborah Cerar	Chris Perkins
Lauren Cohen (Vice President)	Fran Dowling	Lisa Raue
Barbara Murphy (Secretary)	J. Michael Drude	Alicia Sandberg
Joni Martino (Treasurer)	MaryEllen McLaughlin	

## Community Partners

Nineteen years ago, individuals from local organizations came together to create the Community Center of Northern Westchester. Today, that original group has grown to include 29 churches, synagogues, schools, and civic groups, now known as Community Partners. In addition to the financial support these organizations provide, Community Partner representatives recruit volunteers, lead food and special drives, communicate Center needs to their organizations, and serve as advocates for the Center in the wider community.

Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills	Terri McNair
Bedford Presbyterian Church	Nancy Gernert
Bet Torah, Mount Kisco	Pam Moskowitz
Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Armonk	Lisa Mazure
First Congregational Church of Chappaqua	Fran Meek
First Presbyterian Church of Katonah	Ella Saunders
The Harvey School	Susan Harris
Jewish Family Congregation, South Salem	Suzanne Sunday, Susan Westlake
Katonah United Methodist Church	Melva Pitts
Katonah Village Improvement Society	Pam Veith
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Mt. Kisco	Peter West
Mount Kisco Rotary Club	Ron Granberg
Northeast Westchester Rotary Club	Robert Herber
Pound Ridge Community Church	Judy Kennedy
Rippowam Cisqua School	Matthew Nespole
Somers Rotary Club	John Katzenstein
St. James Episcopal Church, North Salem	Deborah Sherwood-St. John
St. John's Episcopal Parish, Lewisboro	Alison Giglio
St. Joseph's Church, Croton Falls	Dineen Devito
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Katonah	Sally Beckett
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mount Kisco	Shirley Russell
St. Mary of the Assumption, Katonah	Toni Keech
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bedford	Paul Sturz
St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Bedford	Ellen Baudinet
South Salem Presbyterian Church	Lee Allen
Temple Beth El of No. Westchester, Chappaqua	Nancy Grundman
Temple Shaaray Tefila, Bedford Corners	Deborah Adelberg
United Methodist Church of Mt. Kisco	Kathryn Dinin
United Methodist Church of Purdys	Paul Dengler

## Advisory Board

Tim Joyce	Alexia Jurschak
Judy Pagnucco	Bart Tyler

## The Lifeblood of the Community Center

The spirit of volunteerism and caring that runs deeply through our community finds a willing home at the Center. Without the time, energy and commitment of our dedicated volunteers, the Center could not function. Our volunteers include teenagers eager to perform community service, parents with school-aged children and retirees who now have time to give back to their community.

*“The reason I have volunteered at the Community Center for almost 14 years is very simple. I enjoy being part of the interaction between clients and staff. It is a privilege to see the impact we have on individual lives and experience their gratitude. Getting to know both clients and fellow volunteers is an extra dividend.” Pat Muldoon*





## Financials 2010

### INCOME

Donated Goods & Services	\$	1,001,044
Donations and Grants	\$	262,221
Special Events, Other	\$	128,756
Investments	\$	48,016
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,440,037</b>

### EXPENSES

Food & Clothing Services	\$	1,119,808
Educational Classes	\$	56,052
School Supplies	\$	10,403
Management, General	\$	66,480
Fund-raising	\$	44,748
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,297,491</b>

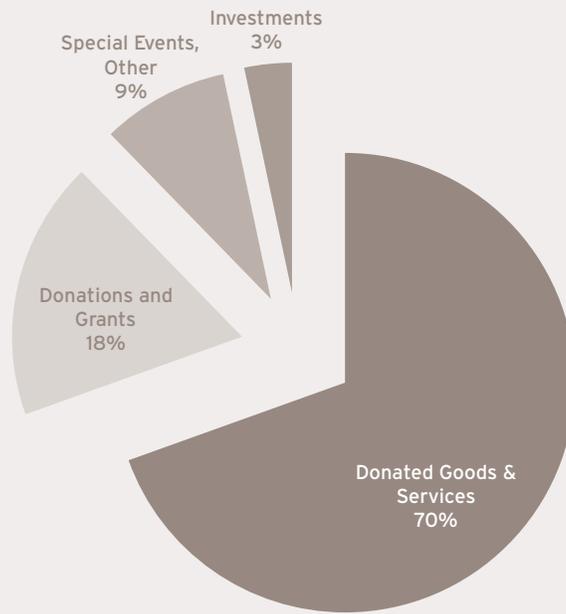
### BALANCE SHEET

Total Assets	\$	1,226,269
Liabilities	\$	19,581
Net Assets	\$	1,206,688
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,226,269</b>

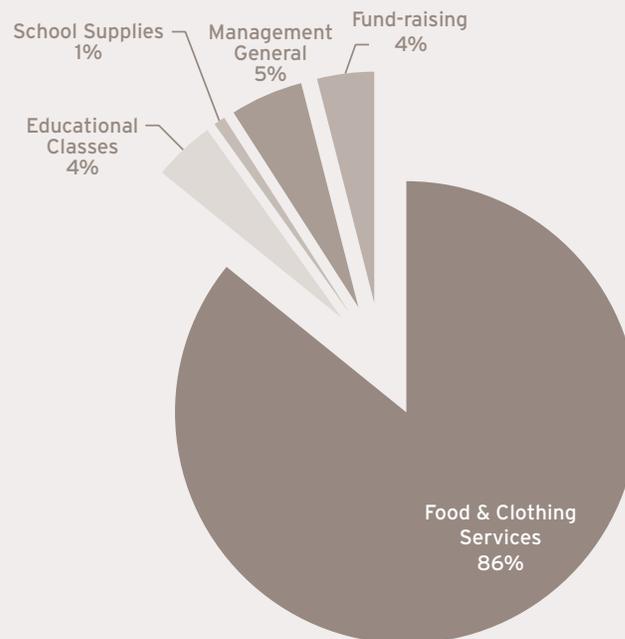
*Monetary donations, from individuals, foundations, and our Community Partners, provide the financial support to help our neighbors in need.*



## 2010 Income



## 2010 Expenses





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of northern westchester**  
*neighbors helping neighbors*

84 Bedford Road • Katonah, NY 10536  
communitycenternw.org  
info@communitycenternw.org

**We gratefully accept donations during our hours of operation:**

Tuesday–Friday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.



communitycenternw.tumblr.com

## How You Can Help

- Donate food and seasonal clothing, shoes or linens
  - Become a volunteer
  - Make a monetary donation

*A caring staff offers a warm welcome to clients and volunteers.*



Noya Guerrero, Assistant Director for Client Services;

Sherry Wolf, Executive Director;

Clare Murray, Assistant Director for Operations.