



# COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

SPRING 2012

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

### Celebrating 20 Years of Sharing the Essentials of Living

The Community Center of Northern Westchester celebrates its 20th anniversary this spring. During the last 20 years, since a group of compassionate local citizens brought the Center to life, we have seen our community come together in so many ways, to share the essentials of living with our neighbors in need. Today, the Community Center serves 1,800 families from more than 30 Northern Westchester communities, who partake of the food, clothing and services that the Center provides – thanks, in large part, to a host of partnerships and collaborations throughout our community.

We were gratified, moved and humbled by the turnout at our 20th Anniversary Celebration, on a beautiful April 28th. And not just by the numbers who came, but also by the range of attendees, of all ages: longtime residents and founders of the Center; collaborators on the renovation of the King House that created the Center of today; clients celebrating the sustenance and opportunity the Center helps to provide; volunteers who give comfort to families in need every day; families sustaining the Center with the fruits of their food drives; and families new to our community and to the Center -- drawn by curiosity about what we are and what makes us tick. Many deserve our thanks: not only all of you who volunteered and worked so

hard to make our special day happen, but also all of you who came by with the intention of fostering the love of sharing in your households. As we think about it, everybody we met at our 20th anniversary celebration likely shares that intention. We always try to keep the Center's role in perspective. Nothing would please us more than to greet the day when no one is in need in Northern Westchester, and when the Community Center can close its doors. We've spent the last two decades working toward that goal. Please read on to find out how, together, we can keep working toward realizing that goal.

**SHERRY WOLF**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



SCENES FROM OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

### 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 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

Mount Kisco Rotary Club  
Northeast Westchester Rotary Club  
Pound Ridge Community Church  
Rippowam Cisqua School  
Somers Rotary Club  
St. James Episcopal Church, North Salem  
St. John's Episcopal Parish, Lewisboro  
St. Joseph's Church, Croton Falls  
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 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

### ADVISORY BOARD

Tim Joyce • Alexia Jurschak • Laura Kaplan  
Terri McNair • Judy Pagnucco • Bart Tyler

## 10 FACTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER IN 2011

- Nearly **1,800 families** came to us for help in 2011, 10 times the number that came to the Center 20 years ago.
- **Children comprise 33%** of those who received food from the Center's Food Pantry.
- **184 tons** of food were distributed to families during over **7,300** Food Pantry visits.
- **83 tons** of donated clothes, shoes and linens were distributed during more than **8,000 visits** to our Clothing Boutique.
- Volunteers gave over **50,000 hours** of service.
- **540 children** received new school supplies.
- **660 children** received new sleepwear for the holidays.
- More than **800 students** attended classes and workshops to improve their skills.
- We help neighbors in need from more than **30 communities in Northern Westchester.**
- Over the Center's 20 years, families have made over **82,000 visits** to our Food Pantry.



## THANKS FOR YOUR RECENT DONATIONS AND DRIVES

So many generous and enthusiastic individuals and groups organize, collect and deliver donations to help their neighbors in need. Here are just a few recent examples. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication!

The annual **Leatherman's Loop** "Help Feed The Leatherman" drive collected 1,144 pounds of food, nearly three times last year's collection. Thanks to David Ceisler and his family for spearheading the drive and to **all the generous runners.**

The **Katonah Post Office** collected 428 pounds of food during the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

**Kennedy Catholic High School** in Somers recently collected 1,155 pounds of food, and **Somers Girl Scout Troop 2847** collected and shelved 171 pounds.

Students from **Rippowam Cisqua School** donated to the 2012 School Supplies Drive 339 pounds of brand new school supplies. Thank you for helping local kids start school fully stocked.

**Greenwich Academy** donated pillowcases filled with baby supplies totaling 361 pounds. Each pillowcase held baby food, diapers, wipes and a book.

As part of North Castle's **Zero Waste Day** this spring, members of **Congregation B'nai Yisrael** collected a total of 2,817 pounds of clothing.

Thanks to **our local farms** for their much appreciated deliveries of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Many thanks to all of you for your donations that help fill our shelves every day.



## WHAT WE NEED NOW

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

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE 2012

For twelve years, the Community Center of Northern Westchester has provided thousands of students with basic school supplies. Once again, we are seeking donations of new items for hundreds of students ages 3 to 18. This program eases the financial burden faced by many families at the beginning of the school year, and helps students get off to a great start in school!

Please visit [communitycenternw.org](http://communitycenternw.org) for a full list of needed supplies. Or consider a donation of \$25 to provide one student with a set of basic supplies. Donations may be brought during Center hours. If you would like to volunteer to help sort and pack school supplies, please contact the Center at 914-232-6572.

## RECENT NEWS

### PROM CLOTHES CLOSET

Our yearly Prom Clothes Closet provides gently used prom dresses, shoes, accessories, and men's formalwear to high school students who would like to attend prom or graduation parties, and cannot afford to purchase or rent these items.

Volunteers and staff, led by coordinator Doreen Gadigian, collected, sorted, and steam-pressed over 250 dresses.

For one night, girls shopped our closet at a special private event, graciously hosted by Mt Kisco formalwear boutique Elephant's

Trunk. The girls who attended browsed, tried on, and took home beautiful gowns for their proms.



Special thanks to volunteer Brenda Abisch, pictured above, who adjusted, hemmed and tailored dresses to fit the girls perfectly.

### RECENT PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

A total of 35 students completed the Center's **Basic Concepts of Construction** course, created and taught by local architect Nelson Guerrero. Over 14 classes, the students improved their construction knowledge and job skills.

Students also recently completed **Civics Plus**, taught by Connie Kamerman and Rina Arias. This English language course, developed by the Center, builds on the language and civics taught in the cutting-edge **U.S. Civics for Immigrants** course the Center has offered.

The Center is hosting Eat Smart New York, a seven-session nutrition course for adults, created and funded by Cornell University Cooperative Extension. The course focuses on meal planning and healthy food shopping on a budget. Pictured, instructor Doris Elena Argote explains the healthy dish the class is about to sample.



A generous grant from the Westchester Community Foundation allowed us to provide the construction and Civics Plus courses free of charge. Our thanks to the WCF, our great instructors, and all the students who participated.

### NEW MEMBERS JOIN CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Five local residents stepped forward from the growing ranks of community members giving their time and talents to join our Board of Directors.

**Michele Boniello** has been part of her family's business, Boniello Builders, since 1983.

**Sue Brofman** has been a practicing attorney for more than thirty years.

**Michael Fay** is Vice President for Corporate Marketing and Communications at IBM.

**Dr. Joanne Marien** is former Somers Superintendent of Schools.

**Dr. Christine Meyer** is an economist and Vice President at NERA Economic Consulting.

## PROGRAMS & SERVICES

**Food Pantry**  
Clients receive monthly supplemental food

**Clothing Boutique**  
Clients choose clothing, shoes & linens

**Dowling Educational Scholarship**  
Awarded to students demonstrating merit and need

**Furniture Exchange**  
Offers of donated furniture matched with requests for those items

**Health Outreach Programs**  
Northern Westchester Hospital provides 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 and Summer Camp Scholarships**  
As available at certain schools and camps

**School Supplies Drive**  
New supplies and books fill children's backpacks

**Computer Training**  
Basic computer skills, including internet access

**Construction skills course**  
Reading blueprints and other construction skills

**Eat Smart New York**  
Cornell University's nutrition course for adults

**English Language Classes**  
Basic conversation and writing

**Food for Thought**  
Nutrition education for families on a budget; partnership with Sesame Workshop

**Job and Career Counseling**  
Job-seeking resources, resume-writing, and interview skills

**Job Skills Workshops**  
Landscaping and painting workshops taught by local professionals

**Tutoring for Individuals**  
Special programs based on client need, such as GED preparation

## ANNUAL BENEFIT COCKTAIL PARTY & AUCTION

Saturday, October 20, 2012  
St. Matthew's Fellowship Hall  
Route 22, Bedford, NY

Join us for a fun-filled evening in  
celebration of our 20th Anniversary!

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### MONETARY AID

Your tax-deductible donation supports our goal of helping our less fortunate neighbors. We are grateful for all donations, large and small. You can also donate on our website.

### DONATE FOOD & CLOTHING

We depend upon and gratefully accept donations of food to help stock our food pantry, and clean, gently used, seasonal clothing, shoes and linens.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the life-blood of the Center and make everything we do possible. All are welcome. Call us at 914-232-6572 for more information.

VISIT US ONLINE [communitycenternw.org](http://communitycenternw.org) EMAIL [info@communitycenternw.org](mailto:info@communitycenternw.org)



[facebook.com/commctrnw](https://www.facebook.com/commctrnw)



[twitter.com/commctrnw](https://twitter.com/commctrnw)



[communitycenternw.tumblr.com](http://communitycenternw.tumblr.com)

## COMING UP AT THE CENTER

### HOLIDAY SHARE

Starting in October, we collect foods to distribute for the November and December holidays.

### SHARE THE WARMTH

Starting in November, we collect new children's sleepwear to give out during the winter holidays.



84 Bedford Road • Katonah, NY 10536  
914-232-6572

DONATIONS GRATEFULLY  
ACCEPTED DURING CENTER HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 10 am to 4 pm  
Saturday: 10 am to 1 pm

## OUR MISSION

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

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WHITE PLAINS, NY  
PERMIT NO. 36125