

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

WHO WE ARE...WHAT WE DO

ESSENTIALS OF LIVING

We provide Northern Westchester residents from 38 communities with monthly supplemental food from our choice-style pantry. Last year, we took the edge off hunger for nearly 2,000 families, who came to us for help and made more than 8,000 visits to our food pantry; 37% of those we serve are children and 7% are seniors.

Our very generous local community donates gently-used clothing, shoes, accessories, and linens to our boutique, where families in need select from these items at no charge.

Each year we also provide special seasonal items: gently used prom dresses and tuxedos, brand new school supplies, special holiday foods, and new warm pajamas for children. All are directly contributed or financed by concerned donors during our targeted drives.





SELF-SUFFICIENCY & IMPROVED QUALITY OF LIFE

The Center offers a range of programs and services designed to help our neighbors achieve self-sufficiency and improve quality of life for the entire family.

- Career & Job Counseling
- Employment skills development
- Basic Construction Skills
- **OSHA Safety Training**
- Language & computer classes
- Sewing & Design Skills
- Entrepreneurship programs
- Nutrition workshops
- Health screenings, flu shots & eye exams
- Educational scholarships
- Sleep-away summer camp opportunities
- Help in accessing other resources



MISSION

The Community Center of Northern Westchester 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.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our Community Partners provide financial assistance each year, increase awareness of Center services for those in need, and encourage support within their own communities for our drives and volunteer opportunities.

Thank you to all our Community Partners!

(914) Cares Antioch Baptist Church Bedford-Armonk Rotary Club **Bedford Community** Church Bedford Hills Lions Club Bedford Hills Neighborhood Assoc.

Bedford Presbyterian Church

Bet Torah

Congregation B'nai Yisrael, Armonk

Congregation Shir Shalom of Westchester/Fairfield Counties

First Congregational Church of Chappaqua Katonah Presbyterian Church

Katonah United Methodist Church

Katonah Village Improvement Society Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Mt. Kisco

Mount Kisco Rotary Club Northeast Westchester Rotary Club

Northern Westchester Hospital

Pound Ridge Community

Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco Rippowam Cisqua School

Somers Lions Club Somers Women's Club

Presbyterian Church

South Salem

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mount Kisco

St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Katonah

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Bedford

St. James Episcopal Church, North Salem

St. John's Episcopal Church, Lewisboro

St. Joseph's Church, Somers

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Katonah

St. Patrick's Church, Bedford

Temple Beth El of N. Westchester, Chappaqua

Temple Shaaray Tefila, **Bedford Corners**

The Church of the Good Shepherd

The Harvey School United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco

United Methodist Church of Purdys

Our ability to serve our neighbors in need is possible only with assistance from the community. Whether it's a contribution of money, food, clothing, expertise or time, we encourage and welcome the involvement of individuals and organizations.

NEW WAYS WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE



As a result of a survey we conducted in 2018, we have adjusted our hours of operation to include one evening a week!

This improves access to our Center services for families who need our support.

COMMUNITY SHOP NOW OPEN!

For over 15 years the Community Center has sent a small fraction of our clothing donations to consignment shops. Without diminishing the high quality clothing and accessories always available in our boutique, free of charge to families seeking our support, this has generated over \$100,000 for the Center.

We are now embarking on a new venture by opening our own Shop!

The Community Shop will have this same small fraction of our high end clothing and accessories available to all. This will generate income which will directly benefit Center programs and services. It will also enable students of our sewing and design courses to showcase and market their handmade products. For others, our



A Shop to Benefit Community Center Programs

SHOP

COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

shop will provide Retail Skills training to improve employment opportunities. We are grateful for the additional community engagement in our mission through both volunteering and shopping!

The Community Shop, located at 196 Katonah Avenue, is open Tuesday to Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please continue to bring all clothing donations to the Community Center, 84 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY 10536, where we will be delighted to receive them! Donations will not be accepted at the Shop.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS WITH OUR SEWING AND DESIGN PROGRAM





Drop in Fridays from 10am to 1pm to make your own reuseable bag & make one for the Center...Help the environment & support Center programs!





Nobody could have guessed that a quest over a year ago for making reusable bags would be the impetus for launching a whole new graduating class of entrepreneurs. One of our most dedicated volunteers at the Center began a small program on Friday mornings to create bags from donated fabric for our clients to have and reuse.

Interest in improving sewing skills led us to develop a series of Sewing and Design courses. To date, 21 Center clients have participated in both basic and advanced level skills courses which include workshops on how to start and market your own business. Our sewers are also enjoying the creative opportunity which our Upcycling course provides

where they learn how to repurpose and transform donated clothing. Currently neckties are being transformed into silk skirts and bags!

Nine of the graduating students are already creating their own line of handmade products and launching their home based businesses, generating additional income to improve financial stability.

Our new entrepreneurs at the Center are called "Makers" and our local community has not only embraced them but has helped them by generously offering tables at local farmers markets and holiday boutiques to sell their crafts. Additionally, a few of our sewing students

have been employed by local businesses looking to create their own specialized products. Thank you for your support!

Be on the lookout for more of our "Makers" products as the students continue to challenge themselves in different areas of creativity. You can find them at the Community Shop!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS









Welcome Ridgely Biddle, Jim Glascott, Vicki Marwell and Caroline Saxton!

AND WITH YOUR HELP MAKING AN IMPACT

SUPPORT THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Each year, thanks to the generosity of neighbors, the Community Center is able to help nearly 2,000 families from 38 Northern Westchester communities.

In 2018, the Community Center gave out 396,765 pounds of food during 8,370 visits to our food pantry, and distributed 1,646 winter coats, 5,771 pairs of shoes, 889 sets of bedding and 1,050 new pajamas.

It is only through the contributions of donors and efforts of volunteers that we are able to serve the thousands of families who come to us for help.

"I can't even
explain how grateful
I am for this center
and for helping
my family move
forward in life."

- Maria

ACHIEVING GOALS

Higher education is an important but expensive undertaking. Through the Dowling Educational Scholarship program the Center provides financial awards to well-qualified and deserving students. Please help these students reach their academic goals by making a donation.

"Thank you to the Community Center for all the help it has given me to achieve my dream of becoming a registered nurse.

-Natalia



Visit our website for more information and to support our students.

DREAMS COME TRUE



Spring is prom season! The Center and community work together to help local students of modest income find the perfect attire: gowns, tuxedos, shoes and accessories are offered free of charge.

Selections are made at an evening event at the Elephant's Trunk in Mount Kisco, or at the Center by appointment.

With your support we helped 99 boys and girls feel like a million dollars as they attended their Prom last year.

Donations of prom wear will be gratefully accepted through June.



HELPING LOCAL MOMS

Who better understands the needs of babies than moms?

Organized by local mothers and supported by 35 local preschools and day care centers, Moms for Moms helps alleviate the financial burden on families in our community who struggle to provide for their babies.

Thanks to the hard work and compassion of these local mothers, schools and day cares, almost 1 ton of diapers, wipes, baby food, cereal and toddler meals were donated to our food pantry last year.

We are so grateful for their ongoing support and look forward to their 3rd Annual Moms for Moms Drive leading up to Mother's Day this year.

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER

Sleep-away camp is an opportunity to explore nature, make new friends, learn independence and have a summer to remember. Last year, 65 local children, ages 8-14, attended camps in New England with the support of the Center and scholarships from Brantwood Camp and The Summer Camp.

If you would like to help the children have a great experience, please visit our website for a list of the items we currently need for our campers.



THERE ARE SO MANY WAYS TO GIVE BACK

Volunteers of all ages, from teens to retirees, work to support the daily operations of the center.

Whether receiving and sorting donations, helping families in the Food Pantry or Clothing Boutique, teaching classes, holding food drives, packing school supplies, or looking after our building and grounds, the time and energy of our dedicated volunteers

is invaluable. We so appreciate their extraordinary commitment to serving our neighbors in need. We couldn't do what we do without them!

"I volunteer at CCNW because what they do goes beyond helping people with the necessities of living, they provide care and hope. I feel privileged to be even a small part of that."

-Barbara



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IF YOU OR ANYONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP, PLEASE CONTACT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT 914.232.6572

Learn more about us at www.communitycenternw.org or visit us any time we are open to see our work in action!

Giving is not about making a donation, it's about making a difference! DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

For over 25 years the COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER has been dedicated to improving the well-being and self-sufficiency of our neighbors in need in Northern Westchester.

Thanks to the incredible support of our dedicated volunteers and donors we continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our neighbors every day. Please join us and open your heart by supporting the Community Center.

Your help will go a long way toward keeping our pantry shelves full, programs running and our doors OPEN TO ALL WHO COME TO US FOR SUPPORT!



PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY

Make your donation online on our website www.communitycenternw.org