



CENTER HELPS LOCAL TEENS REALIZE PROM DREAMS

With the end of the school year in sight, young people in our area have been preparing for their prom and graduation ceremonies. To help ease the financial burden of dressing for these milestone events, the Center has been providing young women and men from families of limited means with free dresses, formalwear and accessories, so that they can attend their prom and graduations parties with dignity and in style.



The community stepped up by generously donating beautiful dresses and tuxedos, and students have come to the Center, by private appointment, to choose their outfit.

Elephant's Trunk, the high-end Mount Kisco boutique, hosted a private evening dress-fitting event for the Center's annual prom drive, offering the use of their store after hours. Young women came to choose dresses donated by the community.

This year's event brought dozens of students from all over Northern Westchester: from Yorktown, Ossining, Somers, Armonk, Mount Kisco and beyond. Teams of Center volunteers transported the dresses to the store, helped fit them,



assisted with shoes and accessories, and made the experience personal and memorable for each of the attendees. Said one dress recipient, "I wouldn't have been able to go to prom if I had to buy a dress."

CENTER VOLUNTEER'S TAX EXPERTISE MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR FAMILIES WITH LIMITED INCOME

Taking time from his busy schedule during tax season, Katonah resident Rich Rosenberg, a veteran tax specialist and personal financial planner, volunteered to prepare taxes for 30 people who came to the Center for help.

He helped many file taxes for the first time, and provided them with information on how to access the various credits to which they are entitled. Rich explained that those



RICH ROSENBERG (LEFT) ASSISTING CLIENTS AT THE CENTER

who may not understand the tax filing process, or who do not speak fluent English, are vulnerable. "It is nice to be able to give objective advice and

help someone get a few thousand dollars back in a refund—these are people who want to know their responsibilities and get on a path to compliance," he said.

On a personal note, the father of three said that the experience of getting to know the families he assisted at the Center underscored how lucky

and privileged he feels to have been born in the United States. "Many come to this country, they work here and their kids are here. They want to do the right thing, but they just don't know how—it's a real eye-opener."

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES, MAKING MEMORIES: CENTER CONNECTS KIDS WITH SUMMER CAMPS



CAMPERS READY TO BOARD THE BUS.

This year, as it has for seven straight years, the Center is connecting kids from families of limited means with a summer camp program they can attend, free of charge. As we write this, we have secured spots for 40 children to go to sleep-away camp this summer—either in Maine or in New Hampshire. And we provide them with some basic gear – sleeping bags,

rain jackets and boots -- donated to the Center by the community.

Christopher Garzon, a 16-year-old from Peekskill, attended Brantwood Camp in New Hampshire last summer, thanks to the Center's help. He told us the experience changed his life in many positive ways. "I learned about

teamwork, leadership, loyalty and really built up confidence," he said. "I am so grateful to be able to return again this summer." In fact, after qualifying through a leadership-in-training program, Christopher will return to Brantwood Camp this summer as a junior counselor. We are glad that Christopher and these campers will have a chance for a summer experience they will cherish.

A FUN AND EASY WAY TO HELP: YOUR OWN FOOD DRIVE!

Help us help our neighbors in need: organize your own food drive. Anyone can do it: your family, teens and school-aged children, your scout troop, your school, team or community organization. It's easy and fun!

- Collect food in your neighborhood or in front of your local supermarket -- be sure to get the store's permission in advance.
- Ask your club, organization or team to take part, or to even organize its own drive.
- Decorate a box; spread the word among your friends.
- For more information, and for a list of the foods we need most, see our website.
- Do you have your own ideas? Share them with us!



MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



THE CENTER WELCOMES SIX NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS: (L-R) LEE ROBERTS, TRACIE CRONIN, STEVE PEEPLES, ANGELA ZAIA, JIM POLOS, JAMES MULLANEY

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Antioch Baptist Church, Bedford Hills
 Bedford Presbyterian Church
 Bet Torah, Mount Kisco
 The Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs
 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 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

ADVISORY BOARD

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

10 FACTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CENTER IN 2013

- Over **1,800 families** came to us for help in 2013, 10 times the number that came to the Center in 1992.
- We help neighbors in need from more than **37 communities in Northern Westchester.**
- **183 tons** of food were distributed to families during over **6,982 Food Pantry visits.**
- **34%** of those who received food from the Center's Food Pantry are **children.**
- **87 tons** of donated clothes, shoes and linens were distributed during nearly **7,400** visits to our Clothing Boutique.
- **670 children** received new school supplies.
- **747 children** received new sleepwear for the holidays.
- More than **900 adults** attended classes and workshops to improve their skills.
- Volunteers gave over **50,000 hours** of service.
- Over the Center's 21 years, families have made more than **96,000 visits** to our Food Pantry.

JOB COUNSELORS PROVIDE VALUABLE SERVICES AT THE CENTER



VOLUNTEER ANGELA ZAIA COUNSELS A JOB-SEEKER

People looking for steady and secure employment face a host of hurdles. Gaining computer literacy, becoming familiar with cultural norms on the job and overcoming language barriers are just some of the challenges facing some job-seekers in our area.

Each week at the Center, volunteers with professional backgrounds in human resources and teaching meet one-on-one with clients seeking steady employment, to best prepare them for the job market. They assist with resume preparation, help create business cards and flyers, offer computer help, identify online job opportunities for

clients to pursue, and give pointers on having a successful job interview.

Over 130 people took advantage of this help in 2013; many of these have since found better employment, including at least 30 who have since landed stable jobs.

“Once we determine what the client may need, we assist with ideas of how to

network. We give them advice on how to prepare and present themselves to a prospective employer,” explained job counselor Laura Politi. “We try to help in any way we can,” added counselor Sandra Pell. “We have a conversation and figure out the best steps the person can take to find employment—including directing them to English classes or making the most of a skill or expertise they might have.”

Angela Zaia, another job counselor, agreed. “We meet our clients wherever they are in their search and want them to feel comfortable and supported for the whole process of finding work.”

OUR PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD

CLOTHING, SHOES & LINENS

SKILLS CLASSES & PROGRAMS

- Computer skills and internet access
- Construction, carpentry, painting skills
- English language classes and tutoring
- GED & citizenship exam preparation
- Job and career counseling
- Starting and running a business

COMMUNITY-WIDE DRIVES & PROGRAMS

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

HEALTH & NUTRITION

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

OTHER SERVICES AND RESOURCES

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



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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CHILDREN: 34% OF THOSE SUSTAINED BY FOOD WE SHARE.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Annual Benefit
Cocktail Party & Auction**
October 18, 2014
Join us for a fun-filled evening!

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

FOLLOW US

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

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.**

*"The Community Center," says J,
"shows me that in today's world,
there are places that truly care
about people. The resources the
Center offers are priceless."*



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.