



HELPING THE NEEDY
IN OUR COMMUNITY
P.O. BOX 869
OSSINING, NY 10562
www.ossiningfoodpantry.org



Ossining Food Pantry Summer 2018 Update

It is hard to believe that it was 30 years ago this summer (August 1988) that our then four local Episcopal churches joined hands to establish the Ossining Food Pantry. During the first month of operation, we served just a few households each week. As the years passed, and the need grew, the Food Pantry evolved into a community based organization now serving approximately 150 families each week. Over time, we have expanded our services in order to more effectively reach those in need. Over 120 loyal volunteers work diligently to serve our clients with a smile, good humor and compassion. Our financial donors are so very generous and, together with our volunteers, enable us to keep the doors open. The issue of food insecurity touches people from all walks of life: the old, young, single, small and large families, the unemployed and the underemployed. The Ossining Food Pantry will work to serve the community as long as even one person is hungry.

Thank you for being a part of the Ossining Food Pantry's efforts!

Visit www.OssiningFoodPantry.org

Save The Date!!!

***Ossining Food Pantry's 30th Anniversary Celebration
Event***

Sunday, September 30th, 2018 4PM – 7PM

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Food Pantry's 30th anniversary Celebration event on Sunday, September 30th. This year, the event will be held in a private Briarcliff Manor estate. Formal invitations will be mailed in mid August.

Please plan to join us!



Volunteer Spotlight

We are pleased to highlight Martha Yergeau in our Volunteer Spotlight report. Martha is one of the original volunteers who began working at the Pantry in 1988. During the past 30 years, Martha has worked in a variety of positions and has been instrumental in the design and development of the Food Pantry's current operating structure. Currently, she oversees the pickup and delivery of purchased groceries from Shoprite to Trinity Church. Martha and her devoted group of volunteers use their own cars/SUVs to move approximately \$4,000 of purchased food each week. Martha also oversees our high school volunteers who pack bags of groceries for home and agency delivery. Over the years, she has mentored a number of these young people and written letters of recommendation for college and referrals for jobs. In addition to the above mentioned duties, Martha serves on the Food Pantry's Board of Directors and Executive Committee.



We thank Martha for her 30 years of service to the community!

Photo: Martha Yergeau at Trinity Church (June 2018)

Thank You Donors!!

In May, we mailed our "Spring Appeal" requesting donations from the community. We are so very thankful to the individuals and community organizations who so generously responded with donations. We use virtually all of the donated funds to purchase food either from Shoprite or from Feeding Westchester (formerly the Food Bank for Westchester.) THANK YOU for your generosity. It is because of people like you that we are able to continue to serve our neighbors in need.



Food Insecurity in Westchester

The high cost of living in Westchester makes it difficult for many people to make ends meet. Money for rent, clothing, transportation, medicine and food is needed to survive. When a person is forced to prioritize paying rent over the purchase of food, or buying the kids new shoes versus buying sufficient, healthy food, that is food insecurity.

**What is
"food insecurity?"**

The face of hunger in America has changed. Hunger is no longer a problem solely of the homeless. All types of people -- some who have worked their entire lives -- are challenged by this issue in today's economy.

Summer Reading --- Teach the Children

There are many books available to help children understand the issue of food insecurity and hunger. Please consider reading an age appropriate book about hunger to your children this summer. There are many wonderful books available through our public libraries. It's never too early to teach the children about this issue.

You may be helping to form the next generation of Ossining Food Pantry volunteers!!



Connecting with Children about Food Insecurity

In June, Ossining Daisy Troop 2587 learned about the problem of hunger. Troop leader Erica Knopp read Maddi's Fridge by Lois Brandt to the girls in order to demonstrate - in an age appropriate way -- this increasingly common issue. Ossining Food Pantry volunteers visited the following week to talk about the Food Pantry, what we do and who we serve. The girls asked many excellent questions and, with new found understanding, are now holding a food-drive to collect non-perishable food from friends and family.



Thank you Ossining Daisy Troop 2587!!

Photo: Ossining Daisy Troop 2587 members. Back row, Food Pantry volunteers: Nancy Castellucci (L) and Mary Ann Power (R)

Down to Earth Farmers' Market Program

In 1991, Down to Earth Farmers' Markets founder Miriam Haas started the company's first farmers' market in Ossining. Focused on healthy, local food sources, the market initially began with two Hudson Valley farmers. Today, the Ossining Farmers' Market hosts 15-20 vendors throughout the season selling fresh, healthy goods directly from the farmer or the food maker to the public.



The Ossining Food Pantry recognizes the need for fresh food as a part of a healthy diet. For about 20 years, the Food Pantry has funded and distributed farmers' market coupons to our clients. The coupons are to be used toward the purchase of items from the Ossining Farmers' market and give clients access to the fresh, healthy food every diet needs.

We'd Like to Hear from You!

Thanks to those of you who wrote and called with questions and suggestions.

Comments? Suggestions? Please email your ideas to OssFoodPan@gmail.com and note NEWSLETTER in the subject line.

Thank You!



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