

Feeding our neighbors, one plate at a time.



CLOSTER FOOD PANTRY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019

COMING UP – What’s on the Agenda?

7th ANNUAL TOWNWIDE YARD SALE

Mark your calendars – **Closter’s 7th Annual Town-Wide Yard Sale** will be **Saturday October 19, 2019**.

Thank you to the forty-four participants who joined us in 2018, raising \$885 for the Closter Food Pantry. We had more families than in 2017 and although the weather was not particularly cooperative, everyone made the best of it, many houses extending their sales into Sunday as well. As with every year past, this event continues to strengthen our community ties as families host sales together or visit neighbors’ sales and treasures pass from one neighbor to another. Think about being part of this great event in 2019!

YOUR YEAR TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The Food & Assistance Board is looking for adult volunteers and potential Board Members to join us in providing food for the families we serve on a regular basis. We have openings for a wide range of opportunities such as weekly bakery pick-ups, weekly bread/bagel sorting, daily cart checks at Borough Hall, and monthly/quarterly newsletter writing. Typically we have people volunteer with us first before asking them to decide if they would like to commit to a Board position – no pressure, just email us if you’re interested in making a difference in peoples’ lives.

SPRING HOLIDAY MEALS

Although ShopRite hasn’t announced it yet, traditionally it will offer its Price Plus card members a free Holiday Meal after spending a certain amount over the six weeks preceding Easter. If you aren’t planning on using your meal, please consider donating it to the Closter Food Pantry. We will post more information on our Facebook page as the time approaches. In the meantime, keep your fingers crossed for an early Spring!

CATCHING UP – December Holidays



FAMILIES ADOPTED AT THE HOLIDAYS

For the past eight years, the **Neighbor to Neighbor in Need Holiday Gift Program**, organized by **Hillary Hirschhorn** (Closter), has connected our Closter Food Pantry families in need with other local families looking to generously share



their blessings at the holidays. This year was no exception with the program enjoying its highest participation rate ever. Each of our 24 families had at least one donor if not multiple donors providing gifts for every member of the family. From household items to clothing, help with heating bills and veterinarian bills, the donors not only gave their time and money to make the holidays a little brighter, but they also gave from their hearts and we are so grateful.

BLUE WAVE HOLIDAY DRIVE



The Closter Democratic Club marked its annual holiday party with a Blue Wave food drive, collecting and donating all things blue as well as a little green too (over \$100 in grocery store gift cards). From Ronzoni pasta to Blue Diamond nuts, Progresso soups to Rice Krispies and Maxwell House coffee to Oreos, our clients can put all the blue to good use!

TEENS DOING RIGHT

Naomi Meininger (Closter) and **Aneesa Saha** (Closter) hosted a small food drive as part of **Teens Sisters of Salaam Shalom**. After collecting the foods for our food pantry, these teens came into the pantry to sort, date and shelve the items as well.



TROKHAN FAMILY MEALS

For the second year in a row, the **Trokhon Group** (Closter) and their family donated 24 delicious spiral hams for our clients to enjoy at the holidays. Quite early on a wet and soggy December morning, the Trokhan family pulled up to our doors to deliver these delicious meals.

The **Trokhon Group** is located in downtown Closter with a team of five doctors who offer their patients



orthopaedic surgical services, dermatological products and medical expertise as well as aesthetician services. Founded by **Dr. Eileen Trokhan** (a Demarest native) and her husband **Dr. Shawn Trokhan**, the Trokhan Group values its community and volunteerism and has been a generous donor to the Closter Food Pantry.

HEALTHY HOLIDAYS

Carrington Farms (Closter) and its owner **Debbie Shandel** (pictured with her daughter Lilah) like to share healthy eating alternatives with our clients each year. They understand that the best nutritional choices are often not economically feasible for all people so they donate their amazing products to the CFP to provide access for all. This year, each family received a supply of coconut oil and flax seed to help balance their eating.



Carrington Farms has been providing the highest quality, delicious, non-genetically modified seeds, grains and oils for twenty years. If you haven't already, check out their website and find a range of natural products that can help you boost your day!

ROCKLAND ELECTRIC WARMS S

On behalf of **Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc.**, **Michelle Damiani**, Manager of Community Affairs, generously presented the Closter Food Pantry with a check for \$700 to help fund the foods needed for our clients over the holiday season. As they have in years past, Rockland Electric not only makes donations to help support charitable organizations like ours, but they also provide us with guidance for helping our clients get the support they need and pointing them to services available to help them make ends meet, especially with the cold winter approaching. We are so grateful for their support!



CATCHING UP – Thanksgiving



TURKEY MANIA!

For the first time in the CFP history, we had too many turkeys donated for Thanksgiving. In fact, we had already exceeded the number of families we serve by noon on Monday (collection day) and since we wanted to make sure the turkeys got to needy families before Thanksgiving, we asked donors to take them to the Center for Food Action in

Englewood. We understand it was an inconvenience to some donors and if we hadn't been busy distributing to our families that same day, our volunteers could have shuttled the birds but we thank everyone who took the extra time to make sure the meal got to CFA and to a family in need. And, of course, **a big thank you to all the donors who donated turkeys and turkey breasts for our 24 families**, including eight from the Elks Club alone!

CFP LAX FOR NOTHING

This year, **Lindsey Lax** (Haworth) came to us and once again asked what she could provide for our Thanksgiving table. Lindsey and her older son, Dylan, have often dropped off healthy menu items for our pantry shelves and our special holiday distributions. In her professional life, Lindsey is dedicated to providing access to high quality wellness programs for adults and kids in underserved communities. This year she and her husband, Eric, donated fresh apples, oranges, pears, bags of potatoes, bags of carrots, and cookies. But the best gift of all was having her youngest son, Cooper, help deliver the goods – what an awesome little man!



HOME-BAKED GOODNESS

With a new kitchen, **Shari Miller** and her sons, **Jayden** and **Bodi** volunteered to make Thanksgiving cakes for each of our 17 larger households. Yes, that's right, **seventeen** homemade sheet cakes in a variety of flavors with a range of different icings and decorations – what a fun surprise for all our different families! And then for our households of a single person, the Millers brought smaller cakes from



the store which were also festive. This is not the first time the Millers have baked for us – it was 2016 when Shari’s son (who was twelve at the time) asked if instead of a birthday gift they could bake together and give away the cakes instead. It’s a great tradition and we are so grateful!

JACK IN THE BOX ANNUAL DRIVE

Each year two of the **Jack in the Box Schools** (Closter, Tenafly) collect food for our families at Thanksgiving. In doing so, they demonstrate to even the youngest children the true spirit of community and compassion. When better to teach that than at Thanksgiving? Jack in the Box schools



in Closter, Alpine and Tenafly provide an exceptional level of care to children from 2 months (Tenafly location) to 5 years old. For more than 60 years, they have

been caring, creating, teaching, playing and watching children grow with the belief that learning should be fun for every child. The Jack

in the Box centers provide a nurturing, safe, creative and structured atmosphere for children to blossom and shine.



PIES FOR ALL

This year we had six local families donate pumpkin and apple pies for all our families at Thanksgiving. With support from the **Winter, Denner, Farber, Schwartz** and **Corson** families here in Closter, **Jay Mufson** (Closter) and her son **Matt Mufson** shopped for pies and delivered them to the CFP for us to distribute to all the families we served this year. It’s just not Thanksgiving without pies – thank you for making sure everyone’s holiday felt just right!



ST MARY’S BRINGING THE SPIRIT

At Thanksgiving, the **Confirmation Class at St. Mary’s Catholic Church** (Closter) collected, organized, bagged and delivered a wonderful collection of foods donated by St. Mary’s parishioners. Also included in the collection was \$100 in grocery store gift cards! This Thanksgiving food drive has been an annual tradition that St. Mary’s is



kind enough to continue on our behalf. Special thanks to **Maria Matos** (Closter) and her son **Noah** who delivered all these bags directly to the Senior Center where we created Thanksgiving bags for each family.

And at Christmas, the collection candy cane reindeers were created for our families by St. Mary’s 6th and 7th Grade Religious Education classes. What fun!

CLOSTER ELKS CONTINUED SUPPORT

We are so blessed to know we have a select group of organizations that continue to support us annually and check in with us regularly to see what else they can do to help – the **Closter Elks** is one of these incredible organizations. After October and November donations totaling nineteen bags of food, assorted toys and clothes as well as eight turkeys and turkey breasts at Thanksgiving...in December we ALSO received a \$1500 check from the Closter Elks, presented by **Mayor John Glidden** (also an Elk) on behalf of **Joe Gray**, the Exalted Ruler. This donation helps us to provide heating credits during the winter months to the families in our program. We are lucky to not only have the support we need to provide food but also being able to present a credit towards a heating bill later in the winter is



very much appreciated by the families we serve. Thank you to the Closter Elks for your ongoing support.

TENAKILL KILLS IT!

Each year the **Student Council at Tenakill Middle School** (Closter) hosts a school-wide food drive to support the Closter Food Pantry. This food drive has become the backbone for our holiday inventory and usually provides at least a **thousand food items** for our shelves. This year was no exception – not only was there a great turnout, but the students did an excellent job of presorting the foods and getting everything packed into our vehicles each week.



TEMPLE EMANU-EL MITZVAHS

This fall, members of Temple Emanu-El (Closter) made donations to the Closter Food Pantry in recognition of family celebrations, including:

- **Mr. & Mrs. Jason Goldberg** (Tenafly) in honor of their son Emmet’s Bar Mitzvah celebrated in June.
- **Mr. Jonathan & Dr. Jodi Reiss** (Demarest) in honor of their son Walker’s Bar Mitzvah on October 6th.
- **Mr. & Mrs. Adam Sands** (Demarest) in honor of their son Matthew’s Bar Mitzvah on October 20th.
- **Dr. Jonathan Shammash & Dr. Rebecca Baxt** (Tenafly) in honor of their son Zachary’s Bar Mitzvah on October 20th.

Additionally, the **Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El** also presented the food pantry with a generous donation in October to help us continue the work we do to support local families in need.

THANK YOU to the following individuals and groups who shared their time and generosity this fall and over the holiday season:

- **The Stratton Family** (Haworth) who decided this year that in lieu of printing and mailing holiday cards, the family would make a financial donation to the Closter Food Pantry. They shared their holiday message through an email to friends and family alike, encouraging all to reach out and support a local charity doing good work in each of their communities. What a special way to greet the holidays – thank you Tina, Chris, Hannah, Lucy, Faye and Alec.
- **Michelle Messina** (Norwood) for donating coffee for all our families at Thanksgiving. There’s nothing like finishing off the holiday meal with dessert and coffee!
- **MaryAnn Farrell** (Closter) who donated a large collection of plush holiday toys which one may have thought would be just for children but, alas, our clients young and old all loved picking one for their homes



- **Anonymous Donor** who donated six large Delacre cookie collections for the holidays. Our clients got to pick an extra dessert items from our holiday table and these were the first to go!
- **Sophie Heymann** (Closter) our past Mayor and long-time CFP supporter whose family hosted a party in her honor this fall and created table centerpieces of food collections which were then donated to the Closter Food Pantry!



- **Girl Scout Troop 4159** (Closter) whose ninth grade members hosted an October food drive amongst their families, collecting a range of approximately 75 items to benefit the CFP.
- **NVD Football Team** (Demarest) which hosted Community Night in early October and collected food from the fans on behalf of the Closter Food Pantry.
- **Thomas Hubbard** (Bergenfield) who continues to support us regularly with donations of Shop-Rite gift cards that we use to help fill our shelves, making sure we have some of the items most requested by clients.
- **Temple Beth El (Closter)** as well as the **Temple Beth El Nursery School** (Closter) and its teacher, **Amy Fox**, who have hosted food drives and collected more than fifteen bags of food for the CFP. It's never too early to teach your children the value of helping others!
- **Tom Migliore** (Closter) a resident of this town for more than sixty years donated twelve tickets to the Lions Club pancake breakfast so that some of our clients could enjoy an unlimited supply of hot and delicious flapjacks!
- **K'Ton K'nection Class** at **Temple Beth El** (Closter) whose 5-6 year old participants were learning about gratitude and appreciation and each brought in one item to share with people who might enjoy something extra. Thank you to the children and their teacher, **Judi Weiss!**
- **Anonymous Donor** who continues to surprise us each month with Stop & Shop gift cards totaling \$100 each time. We don't know who you are but we are grateful!
- **Laura Pendleton** (Alpine) and a small Cub Scout group of a few first-grade boys who donated a GIANT office paper box filled to the brim with twenty pounds of Halloween candy!
- **MacBain Farm** (Closter) for donating sugar pumpkins and unopened s'more makings left over from the annual Harvest Festival in October.
- **Wally's Bagel Nosh** (Closter) for its large weekly donation of assorted fresh bagels, flagels, bialies and mini bagels.



- **Palermo Bakery** (River Vale), for its weekly contribution of fresh bread, rolls, danishes and muffins.

A big **THANK YOU** to the volunteers we had join us this fall and over the holidays who have helped sort, date and shelve large food drives as well as weekly donations and also bag the holiday meals:

- **Gabi Basin** (Closter)
- **Zoe Baumrind** (Norwood)
- **Pam & Jake Bern** (Closter)
- **Matthew Chang** (Closter)
- **Alanna & Shayne Goldstein** (Alpine)
- **Nicole & Danny Jakab** (Closter)
- **Galliana Khassanov** (Closter)
- **Carly Kramer** (Closter)
- **Gregg Lambert** (Closter)
- **Michael Lancellotti** (Closter)
- **Jason Layvand** (Closter)
- **Noa & Danny Mikay** (Demarest)
- **Noa Miller** (Demarest)
- **Omer Nathaniel** (Closter)
- **Nicolette Peremen** (Closter)
- **Ben Slutzky** (Closter)
- **Maya Stolper** (Closter)
- **Jane Vasiloff** (Closter)
- **Tammy, Evan & Jake Ween** (Closter)
- **Rebecca & Kevin Yin** (Closter)

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED THIS WINTER

As we continue into the winter months, the items we need most are those that keep our clients warm:

- Chicken & Beef Soups
- Oatmeal & other Hot Cereals
- Coffee & Hot Chocolate
- Chef Boyardee
- Dinty Moore Stew

Thank you all for continuing to support the Food & Assistance Board of Closter.

If you would like to **make a financial donation** to the Closter Food Pantry, please make your check out to “Food & Assistance Board of Closter” and mail it to 295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, NJ 07624.

If your family, employer, religious or other organization would like to **host a food drive** in the upcoming months, please contact us at fabofcloster@gmail.com for more information and to let us know when to expect it!

IMPORTANT: *If you know anyone in Closter who may be in need and is hesitant to come forward or just might not know how, please email us fabofcloster@gmail.com or call (201) 784-0600, extension 429. All inquiries are received in complete confidence.*

The Closter Food Pantry (CFP) is located on the ground floor level of Borough Hall at 295 Closter Dock Road. On the second Thursday of every month we host "Open Door Night" where families receive the non-perishable food items they need. Our Open Door Night schedule for 2019 is posted on the CFP bulletin board next to the elevator. First-time visitors are welcome with a current form of photo identification and proof of residency.