

Feeding our neighbors, one plate at a time.



CLOSTER FOOD PANTRY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019

We relish the joy you helped to bring to our families on Thanksgiving and look forward with anticipation to bringing that same joy to our families for the December holidays. We couldn't do what we do without you. Thank you, sincerely, and have a wonderful, safe, and peaceful holiday.

THIS IS WHAT COMMUNITY LOOKS LIKE

Our Thanksgiving distribution was one to be remembered. Thanks to the many members of our community who contributed in various ways, our families not only each received a turkey or turkey breast, but also had fresh produce and pantry items from which to choose, in addition to receiving their pre-packaged bags, prepared by CFP Board Members and **Lorraine Bianco (Closter)**.



Special thanks to:

Christina Chandras and her daughter **Athanasia (Closter)** who shopped for the fruits we distributed. A new resident to Closter, Christina reached out to the CFP to see how she could help, as she was very active with the pantry where she previously resided. We put her to work and she and her daughter did a great job, coming within \$1 of budget. Welcome to Closter!



Lindsey Lax (Haworth), generous donor and shopper for fresh, colorful produce and fruit.



The Mufson, Winter, and Schwartz families (Closter) for generously donating 24 delicious pies.



We also thank the donors of the 14 turkey/turkey breasts we received.

STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The **Tenakill Middle School Student Council (Closter)** recently conducted its annual food drive and the drive yielded two jeep-fulls (yes, that is correct – *TWO jeep-fulls*) of groceries.



The students sorted the food collected in the classrooms and packed them into more than 100 reusable bags to be transported to the Pantry. Teams of volunteers, many of whom are high school students – helped to sort, date, and shelve the items. This is our biggest source for food throughout the year and we thank all those involved in this effort – the students; school staff, including Student Council advisors Ellen Monaghan and Amanda Cummings; parents; and friends.



Kudos go also to **These Kids Care Club (Closter)** who reached out to see how they could help the Pantry at the holidays, and then collected and donated 12 bags of Thanksgiving foods. This is the same group of 20+ students who hosted a yard sale in October and donated the proceeds to CFP. We applaud these students!



And, thanks to our youngest supporters, as well! Preschool students at **Jack in the Box (Closter and Tenafly)** donated seven large bags of groceries to the Pantry following their Thanksgiving Food Drive.



Students of **Kol Dorot Early Learning Center (Closter)** also donated 12 bags of food to the Pantry just in time for Thanksgiving.

It's never too early to learn about giving to those in need, and we thank the staff and parents of Jack in the Box and Kol Dorot students for raising awareness.

OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

We also thank the following for the contributions below that benefit our families:

- **Donald and Mary Ann Farrell (Closter)** for their very generous monetary donation that we will put to good use this holiday season.

- **Northern Valley Demarest High School's** donation of 13 bags of flour used by students during the parenting simulation activity. Thanks to those students who took such good care of their "babies", our families will be baking up a storm!



- Our local **Stop & Shop (Closter)** and its patrons for the \$1,230 Pantry donation resulting from the 2019 Food4Friends campaign. Thank you to everyone who answered "Yes" at the register!

- **Mike and Katie McDermott (Closter)** for donating a Keurig Coffee Maker and vacuum to our families.
- **Anonymous donors** for multiple boxes of Grainberry products, 12 boxes of corn muffin mix, and 24 cans of Campbell's condensed soup in different varieties. Mm! Good!



- **Lindsey Lax (Haworth)**, a friend of the Pantry who, after reaching out to see what we needed, stopped by with her three children -- **Dylan, Logan and Cooper** -- to donate tuna, nuts, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash....all the things we needed! In her professional life, Lindsey has been directly involved with bringing food and nutritional education to underserved communities, and we are so appreciative of her continued support of the CFP.



- An **anonymous donor** for 24 bags of Hershey's Holiday Kisses. Sweet treats in our families' holiday bags will certainly bring happiness!



- **Tami Luchow Sachs and family (Tenafly)** for donating approximately six bags of groceries after hosting a Friends & Giving event and requesting attendees to bring items to benefit the CFP.
- **St. Mary's Parish (Closter)** for their donation of assorted food collected at their November food drive. The drive, part of the church's Three Squares Ministry (Food for Neighbors in Need) is held monthly on the fourth Sunday.

- The **Closter Recreation Commission** for their very generous donation of 40 cases of beverages. And, we would be remiss to not also thank the **Closter DPW** for moving the cases inside before we had an overnight freeze!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Much thanks to the volunteers who helped to keep the Pantry in order by sorting, dating, and shelving food donations in November.

Alpine

Shane and Mason Goldstein

Closter

Grace Anguilla

Venessa, Brooke, and

Sienna Bokser

Christina, Athanasia,

and Stratos Chandras

Robert Evelyn

Elliott, Nicole, and

Daniel Jakab

Noa Mikay

Arun, Devan, and Lukshmi

Puttannah

Matt and Jay Mufson

Elliot Santiago

Miles Schwartz

Kevin Tong

Demarest

Catherine, Pete, Toby,

and Everett Amorosano

Haley Chroman

Mason Joseph

Noa Miller

Harrington Park

Dash Beavers

Haworth

Max Brickman

Noah Chang

Eric and Lindsey Lax

Dylan Distelburger

Adam Kaufman

Connor Shea

Ronan Topor

Tenafly

Farrah Israel

Jonah Nadis

Julia Nevins

Cresskill

Aline Arslanian

Morgan Messinger

At this time of year there is a strong spirit of giving and generosity and our community is no different. You see that we are not specifically asking for anything as we are blessed to have our shelves full. Having said that, should you find you still want to give, if it is something that you want to make sure gets to our clients in time for the holidays, please drop it off before Wednesday December 18th. Unlike a soup kitchen, we don't see our families over the holidays -- we make sure they have their food and other special gifts in advance of the celebrations. This not only allows our volunteers time to spend with their own families but it fosters a sense of self-sufficiency with our clients. So if you don't get a chance to drop something off, no worries at all! We always find ourselves in need again in the early spring so after the holidays are over and the dust has settled, perhaps you consider a visit to our donation cart then. Happy Holidays, Peace and Gratitude from all of us at the CFP.

Follow us on social media:



Closter Food Pantry



closterfab



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PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

At this time, we don't need anything for the pantry, as we are blessed this time of year with the generosity of our supportive community. We wish everyone a wonderful holiday season.

FOOD DRIVES/FINANCIAL DONATIONS

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 let us help you plan a successful event!

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.



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.*