

Feeding our neighbors, one plate at a time.



CLOSTER FOOD PANTRY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2019

This month, during which we reflect on what we have to be thankful for, we sincerely thank our supporters who enable us to help those in need. An article featuring your support at work can be found at the end of this issue. Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving holiday!



SHOP RITE - FREE HOLIDAY MEAL PROMOTION

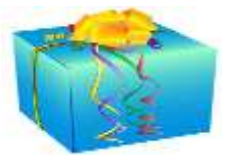
Shop Rite has announced its free **Holiday Dinner Promotion** whereby ShopRite Price Plus members who spend \$400 Oct. 20 through Nov. 28 earn a free holiday dinner. If you don't plan to use your turkey or turkey breast, please consider donating it to the Pantry for our special Thanksgiving distribution.

To donate a meal to a family in need, please place your bagged item in the black donation cart on the ground floor by the elevators in Borough Hall **Monday, Nov. 25 from 7 am to 5:30 pm**. Our volunteers will move the items to refrigeration throughout the day. Before heading out to Borough Hall, please check our Facebook page. In the event we receive too many turkeys, we may suggest that you instead take your donation to The Center for Food Action in Englewood.



BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The holidays will be upon us before we know it. Help to bring holiday cheer to households from Closter and surrounding communities who use the Closter Food Pantry by participating in the **Neighbor-to-Neighbor Holiday Gift Program**. Now in its 9th year, the program matches donors with local families and provides gifts chosen from their recipient's wish list (preserving each family's anonymity). Gift cards are also welcome in lieu of gift items. Please contact Hillary Hirschhorn at hill266@gmail.com or at (201) 750-2579 by **Nov. 16** to participate.



STUDENTS HELPING TO STOCK OUR SHELVES

This month, through Thanksgiving break, the Tenakill Middle School Student Council is hosting its annual food drive which the Pantry relies on to fill our shelves. We encourage families with children in the school (as well as their friends) to donate to this drive, which is our largest of the year.

The students have fun with the drive, as different classes hold a friendly competition to see which donates the most items. After the food is received at the CFP, we rely on our teams of volunteers, many of whom are high school students – to sort, date, and shelve the items. We applaud these students!

OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

CFP'S SECOND FREE MARKET OF 2019

On Oct. 27th we hosted the second Free Market for our clients. **Christine Arias (Closter)** generously organized both events and launched the Free Market concept after seeing high quality clothes being tossed in the donation bin outside Borough Hall. Thanks to Chris, our families were able to select from clothes, shoes, outerwear, bed linens, and housewares. Goods not used by our families were donated to local thrift stores.



IT'S A WIN-WIN!

Oct. 4th was a win-win for both **Northern Valley Demarest High School's Football Team** and the CFP! The Norseman's Community Night supported the Pantry by hosting its Annual Food Drive. Much thanks to The NVD PTSO, Norsemen Touchdown Club and NVD Booster Club who co-sponsored the event and congrats to the team on their 48-12 win!



COMMUNITY SUPPORT MAKES TOWN-WIDE YARD SALE A SUCCESS

We thank the **45 Closter participants** who joined in this year's Town-Wide Yard Sale, which generated over \$900 for the CFP. We had more registrations than last year, and the spectacular fall weather that day certainly encouraged buyers to get out and seek treasures. A special shout out to:

- **Lindgren School (Closter)** which not only registered for the sale, but also hosted a flea market where vendors each made a donation to the Pantry as well

- **These Kids Care Club** raised \$710 for the Pantry during the sale. The children collected and donated their toys, books, and clothes for the sale with help of great, supportive parents. And throughout the day, the children enthusiastically participated in selling the items. On Oct. 25 the children delivered their donation to Borough Hall. The Club has pledged to provide support to the Pantry throughout this school year, and will be collecting food for Thanksgiving. The Pantry is sincerely thankful – it is heartwarming to see children who value the importance of supporting those in our community who need a little extra help. Club members who participated in the Yard Sale include: Hailey Baek, James Cha, Jaden Cho, Ellie Choi, Ian Choi, Nathan Choi, Eunice Chung, Brian Jeong, Jeremy Jeong, Brian Kang, Caden Kang, Caleb Kang, Grace Kang, Michelle Kang, Ellen Kim, Hyeonjun Kim, Ellie Jaehee Kim, Joshua Kim, Shawn Kim, Joshua Lee, Sophia Lee, Kunny Min, Kayla Na, Evelyn Park, Anna Yi, and Daniel Yoon.



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

Many of our families enjoyed a hearty breakfast at the Oct. 27 Lions Club Pancake Breakfast thanks to **Tom Migliore (Closter)** who donated 12 tickets and an **anonymous donor** who donated 10 tickets.

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

- **Amy Nickerson Goldstein (Closter)** for her donation of a toaster
- An **anonymous donor** for 17 jars of olives
- **MacBain Farms (Closter)** for donating s'mores ingredients -- 5 boxes of graham crackers, 18 chocolate bars, and 9 bags of marshmallows -- following the Farm's Harvest Festival hosted by Closter's Environmental Commission in October. This 10th Annual Festival was a fun-filled family afternoon of s'mores; cider; pumpkin picking and painting; storytelling; and music.
- An **anonymous donor** for their "everything baby" contribution of diapers, baby food, formula, and diapers.
- Four bags of groceries, including vegetables; tuna; soup; muffin mix; mac and cheese; oatmeal; and cereal donated by an **anonymous donor**.
- **St. Mary's Parish (Closter)** for their donation of assorted food collected at their October 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 Pantry also received the following cash donations that we use to purchase gift cards or the foods we need to fill our shelves. Thank you to those who thought of us, including:

- **Long-time supporter Janet Weller (Closter)** for her *very* substantial donation.
- **Blake and Jill Chroman (Demarest)** in honor of their daughter Haley's Bat Mitzvah
- **James and Corinne Costo (Alpine)** in honor of their daughter Alexandra's Bat Mitzvah
- \$21 (\$18 in pennies and \$3 in bills) donated **anonymously**.

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

Closter
Grace Anguilla
Elliott Jakab

Cresskill
Aline Arslanian
Morgan Messinger

Demarest
Mason Joseph

PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED

As Tenakill Middle School and These Kids Care Club food drives will likely yield many Thanksgiving staples, we ask that you consider donating an item (such as those below) that might make the holidays more festive for our families. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

- Sparkling juices
- Pie crusts
- Dried fruits and nuts
- Seasonal bread/muffin mixes
- Napkins & Candles



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.



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As you may know, most of the Pantry's clients are in rentals or homes, but struggle to make ends meet. Last week, one of our long-time volunteers received their first phone call from a homeless person. The gentleman was half crashing with a friend and half living in his van while trying to find work after being let go from his job. He had called the food pantry in the town where he grew up, where he felt he had roots, and they said that they weren't taking new clients until January. After doing an online search for different pantries, he called to see if we might be able to help since he had worked here in Closter a few years back. Our volunteer met him at the CFP and packed three large reusable bags of groceries and provided grocery store gift cards so he could purchase meat, frozen, and/or dairy products. The CFP will stay in touch with this man and help him as we can until he gets on his feet and settled. We are fortunate to live in a town where the generosity of our community allows us to help someone like this. We couldn't do this without **YOU!**

Follow us on social media:

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***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.*