

*Feeding our neighbors, one plate at a time.*



# CLOSTER FOOD PANTRY

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER- OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

*Donations and volunteer activity through October*

We hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying these cool fall days. Despite the continuing Covid situation, we are pleased to share ways in which you can help members of our community this holiday season.

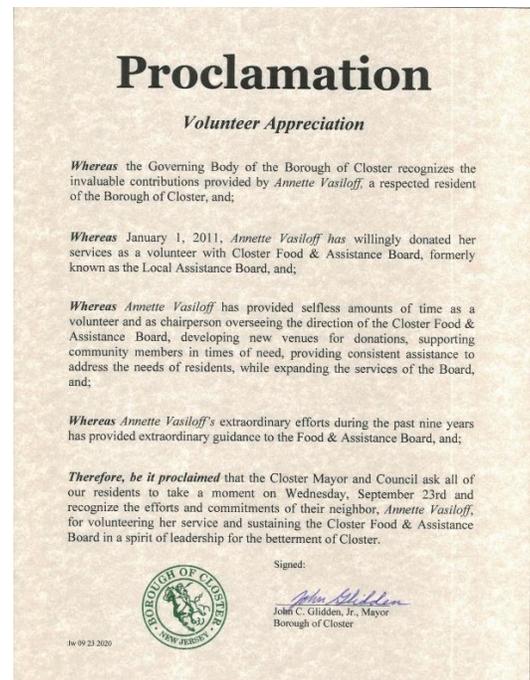
We also want to wish you a sincere Happy Thanksgiving. Please know how truly thankful we are, this Thanksgiving and always, for your continuing support.



And, while on the topic of being thankful, we would like to share the news that **Annette Vasiloff**, who has volunteered with the Closter Food Pantry for more than nine years, decided in September that it was time to move on from her position on the Board. Annette has volunteered tirelessly for the Pantry, logging countless hours sorting and shelving food, communicating with the families we serve, and tending to administrative matters. In recognition of her remarkable contributions, Mayor John C. Glidden read a Proclamation of Volunteer Assistance at the Mayor and Council's Sept. 23 meeting. The proclamation noted that Annette developed new venues for donations; supported community members in times of need; provided consistent assistance to address the needs of residents; and provided *extraordinary* guidance to the Closter Food & Assistance Board.

Annette is *extraordinary*. Her enthusiasm, dedication, and passion were both inspiring and contagious. And her talent for storing SO many varied foods in a rather tiny closet was hugely impressive, as was the pride she clearly took in everything she did for the Pantry. She will be greatly missed by the Board members, our volunteers, the families we serve, and others who were fortunate to have worked beside her.

Annette, from **ALL** of us to you.....we wish you well, and we thank you, thank you, thank you for all you have done to enrich our lives and the lives of so many others.



## HOW TO HELP DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Pantry cannot accept food donations at Borough Hall as it is currently closed to the public, however, there are other ways you can help.

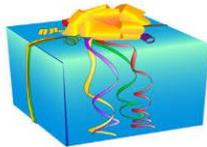
We continue to accept, and very much welcome, monetary donations and supermarket gift cards. We welcome gift cards to whatever store you regularly shop – Trader Joe’s, Wegman’s, Whole Foods, A&P, Stop & Shop, and ShopRite to name a few. Financial and gift card donations will help us buy items we may need for Thanksgiving distribution, as well as ensure our shelves are stocked through the winter. Details on where to send your donation can be found on Page 3.

If interested in providing a specific item for all of our clients or gift certificates to local restaurants, please email [fabofcloster@gmail.com](mailto:fabofcloster@gmail.com) for guidelines and suggestions.

Occasionally, we will also post most needed items on our social media platforms, so please follow us (closterfab on Instagram and Closter Food Pantry on Facebook) for updates.

## BRING HOLIDAY CHEER TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED

The holidays are very rapidly approaching. Please help us 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hill266@gmail.com) or (201) 750-2579 by Nov. 14 to participate.



## THANKSGIVING UPDATES

Shop Rite has announced its free **Holiday Dinner Promotion** whereby ShopRite Price Plus members who spend \$400 Oct. 18 through Nov. 26 earn a free holiday dinner. If you don’t plan to use your free turkey or turkey breast, please consider donating it to the Pantry for our special Thanksgiving distribution.

To donate a turkey or turkey breast to a family in need, please place your bagged item on the table that will be set up outside the Closter Senior Center (4 Lewis Street) Sunday, November 22 between 10 am and 4 pm. Drop off will be contactless, and our volunteers will move the items to refrigeration throughout the day. (Before heading out to the Senior Center, 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.) Although we won’t be able to fully express our gratitude when you drop, please know that we so appreciate your helping us to provide holiday meals to our families.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of our holiday programs.

## OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

### NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

We thank our neighbors below for their generous contributions which enable us to continue to help our families during these times.

#### Closter

Joseph & Susan Argenziano  
Michele Bhagat (in honor of Katie McDermott who hand made masks for the community)  
Mary Ann & Donald Farrell  
Janet Fazio  
Thomas & Nancy French  
Nicole & Spencer Jakab  
Alice Levine  
Mary & Bruno Macchiavelli

#### Demarest

Antoinette Cecon

#### New York

Mindy & Michael Rothbaum

#### Oradell

Judith Svec

- Thank you, **MacBain Farm (Closter)** for adding “a kick” to the bags our families received that contained your donation of hot peppers. Fresh produce is always such a treat, and we’re sure our families enjoyed them!



- A big thank you to **Andrew Crain, Abram Demaree Homestead (Closter)** for several generous donations. Andrew's mother started a foundation in the 1970's to preserve the Homestead's land and support the community. This gem in our back yard, is a non-profit, and features a historic house; farm; fresh homemade food; and antiques and vintage items. It's well worth the visit!
- **Shop Rite, Northvale** came through in a BIG way by hosting a food drive in September to benefit the Pantry. Shop Rite asked us for a list of our most needed items, and then posted flyers throughout the store. Thank you Shop Rite employees, as well as the shoppers. Your generosity and kindness is very much appreciated.



- Our pleas on social media were heard! After learning that a client we serve needed diapers, we posted on social media, and our followers came through! Thank you to **Closter residents Allison Schwartz, Jay Mufson, and Jessica Winter** for donating a large amount of diapers. And, thank you also to the **Arias Family (Closter)** for responding to our post requesting sneakers for a family we serve. The clients were very, very thankful, as are we!

- The **Bergen Mask Task Force** donated 100 masks in varying colors, patterns, and sizes (including children's), which we distributed to our families. We very much appreciate the Task Force helping us to keep those we serve safe. We even have some remaining for future needs.



- Thank you also to **Kol Dorot (Washington Township)**, for collecting food and gift cards for pantries in the area during their High Holiday collection. Our Pantry was the very fortunate recipient of \$250 of grocery gift cards which will allow us to purchase much needed items to fill our shelves.

## FINANCIAL DONATIONS

Donations of cash, checks, and gift cards can be sent to Food & Assistance Board of Closter, 295 Closter Dock Road, Closter, NJ 07624 or dropped in the Borough Hall dropbox in the vestibule which is available 24/7. Currently, online donations cannot be made.

*Follow us on social media:*



[Closter Food Pantry](#)



[closterfab](#)

**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](mailto: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.*