



## News Release

29 N. Hamilton Street, Suite 222

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Tel: (845) 454-3792

Website: [www.dutchessoutreach.org](http://www.dutchessoutreach.org)

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For Immediate Release

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Contact: Falicia Chance, Development Associate  
845-454-3792 or via email [falicia@dutchessoutreach.org](mailto:falicia@dutchessoutreach.org)

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### **BJs Charitable Foundation Grants \$5,000 to Dutchess Outreach, Inc.**

Dutchess Outreach, Inc. recently received a \$5,000 grant from the BJ's Charitable Foundation. Dutchess Outreach will use the grant to purchase food for the Beverly Closs Food Pantry, which provides a three-day supply of food to low-income families, senior citizens, the unemployed and to those who are unable to work.

“We are very thankful that the BJ's Charitable Foundation awarded this grant to us,” says Brian Riddell, Executive Director of Dutchess Outreach. “This grant kick-started our \$45,000 fundraising campaign for the Beverly Closs Food Pantry. We hope in the next 12 months to reach this goal to meet the extraordinary increase in the number of men, women and children struggling with hunger right here in Dutchess County.”

Last year, Dutchess Outreach's three emergency food assistance programs provided over a quarter of a million meals to our neighbors in need! Demand for the Beverly Closs Food Pantry has nearly doubled over the last two years and the cost of food tripled; from spending \$2,000 per month at the Regional Food Bank to now averaging \$6,000 per month- just to keep enough food on the shelves. This year 4,800 people, including 1,800 children, were provided with 102,500 meals- an increase of more than 35 percent over the last two years! “We have to do something, and we have to do it now,” Riddell added.

We could not accomplish our mission without the support from the community. Please visit our website at [www.dutchessoutreach.org](http://www.dutchessoutreach.org) to learn more about what we do at Dutchess Outreach and other ways you can help. Dutchess Outreach has been serving clients since 1974, meeting temporary basic needs for individuals and families when no other resources are readily available to them. In addition to the Food Pantry, the Lunch Box, and the Children's Clothes Closet, the staff at Dutchess Outreach provide advocacy for people in need of emergency housing, rent, medicine and other human services.

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