



“No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers.”

– Ronald Reagan

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

Fall 2011

A CALL FOR HELP, ANSWERED

Thank you to Dutchess Outreach volunteer, Katie Meares and to Larry Hertz of the Poughkeepsie Journal for letting the community know that the Lunch Box needed help. In these continuing difficult economic times, more and more people are coming to the Lunch Box. For some, this is their only meal of the day. Due to funding cuts, the staff has been forced to stretch available resources to meet the needs of the hungry. Domino's Pizza, located on Taft Avenue, donates pizzas every Wednesday. Financial donations were made by Pan Gregorian Enterprises Charitable Foundation and Dutchess-Putnam Restaurant and Tavern Association. After reading Larry's article, others answered the call with donations of food, including: Cosimo's in the Town of Poughkeepsie, Crave in the City of Poughkeepsie, Franco's Italian Deli in Hopewell Junction, Hudson Valley Road Runners, Hyde Park Drive-In, Pleasant Valley Fire Department and Poughkeepsie Day School. Individuals gave grocery store gift cards and financial donations. Thank you to a community that cares.

Carol A. Beck, Volunteer Administrator

MEET DORIS MACK

Doris Mack started volunteering for Dutchess Outreach after her retirement in the early 1990s when the agency was located at the First Presbyterian Church on Mill Street. She helped in both the food pantry and the Children's Clothes Closet. She also collected news articles and photos, keeping scrapbooks of the happenings at Dutchess Outreach. These scrapbooks are now part of the agency's history collection. She continues to volunteer in the Children's Clothes Closet and helps every November with the coat giveaways. Doris is kind and caring, readily reaching out to those in need. When she first arrived

in Dutchess County from Durham, North Carolina, Doris had the opportunity to meet Eleanor Roosevelt. She considers that a highlight of her life and currently volunteers giving tours at ValKill. Like Eleanor, Doris “could not at any age be content to take (her) place in a corner by the fireplace and simply look on.”



SPRING, FALL FOOD DRIVES FEED MANY

On Oct. 15, the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson kicked off their 100th Anniversary Celebration at Dutchess Stadium in Fishkill. Part of that kickoff included a “Can-Can Take Action Project,” asking each of the 4,000 attendees to bring a canned food item to the event. The food went to food pantries throughout Dutchess County, including Dutchess Outreach. A thanks goes out to all of the Girl Scouts. Congratulations on your 100th anniversary.

Earlier this year, the Hudson Valley Renegades sponsored a Family Festival at Dutchess Stadium. The June 16 festival included a food drive to help fill the food pantry at Dutchess Outreach. In addition to the food

received, the Renegades made a financial donation to the food pantry and the Lunch Box.



Canned food piled up at Dutchess Stadium as a result of the Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson “Can-Can Take Action Project” on Oct. 15.

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

So many people were duly impressed at the outpouring of help for those devastated by the floodwaters brought by the double whammy of tropical storms near summer's end. I have to admit I was not that surprised by such a response. I've witnessed the same passion for more than 20 years here at Dutchess Outreach. People like you, our volunteers – strangers helping strangers – build a unique community of concern and care. No one says you have to, but hardly a day goes by without someone coming by or calling with the same request, "How can I help?"

For some it takes a hurricane, but for enough of us just the knowledge of the daily hardships faced by too many people in this community is a call to action. The results are obvious. Thank you.

Brian Riddell, Executive Director

IN MEMORY

Lois Olson began volunteering with Dutchess Outreach in 2004, by sitting in the Lunch Box, registering people to vote. Then, she saw we needed help in the food pantry and started volunteering every Tuesday. Lois completely reorganized the space and developed procedures to make the food pantry more efficient. We continue to implement her suggestions today. Lois was a kind, patient, caring person with a delightful sense of humor who lost her battle with cancer this summer.

Michael McPeck was a new volunteer to Dutchess Outreach. Knowing the importance of community service, he brought his softball team of young girls, the Hudson Valley Ladyhawks, to serve in the Lunch Box. Mike mentioned that "seeing a girl about their age eating at the Lunch Box opened their eyes to how fortunate they are."

They will be missed.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

If you haven't yet seen Dutchess Outreach's new website, visit it at: www.dutchessoutreach.org. The site, which was launched this summer, provides information about Dutchess Outreach, the services it provides, upcoming events, news and more. Visitors to the site can also make donations and find information about how to volunteer.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU

The Volunteer Committee at Dutchess Outreach focuses on the volunteers' needs and certain key volunteer events during the year. Those events include a food drive conducted in May with the National Association of Letter Carriers, the Volunteer Recognition Meeting held in June, and the Susan DeKeukelaere Memorial Coat Drive and Giveaway held in October/November.

These events cannot function without volunteers. Thanks are to be given to the Volunteer Committee members for their work in making these events happen, thank you Karl DeKeukelaere, committee chair; Carol Beck; Mary Dynes; Joan Morris; Erica Stavanau; and John Stephan.

The Committee is in need of additional members; if you can join, please contact Carol Beck at (845) 454-3792 or carolann@dutchessoutreach.org.

FLOOD CLOSES AOK

Tropical Storm Irene left the Acts of Kindness (AOK) basement area with about two feet of water, no electricity and a lot of cleaning. Workers from the renting agency, Herd Redl Properties, boxed items that could be saved, and discarded the remainder. Bedding, linens, and small appliances were lost.

Though the task of reorganizing was a bit overwhelming, the volunteers of AOK persevered. They relocated to a temporary vacant store in the same plaza and reopened on Oct. 4. Working out of boxes, they are again open for business, ensuring agencies access to much needed household items for their clients. Thank you to volunteers Carolyn Gordon, Jill McLeod, Nancy Aarzon, and Rita Lewis for hanging in there and doing a great job.



Culinary Institute of America students Gonzalo Gout, Josh Cundy, and Mariona Villegas, with staff member Carol Hegener, donated their time to prepare refreshments for the Volunteer Recognition Reception.

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