

## Dutchess Outreach Seventh Annual Brunch

Our Seventh Annual Brunch was held at The Grandview in Poughkeepsie on Sunday, October 6, 2013. Over 170 attendees enjoyed a delicious brunch, raffles, door prizes, and silent and live auctions.

**Charles S. North**, President and CEO of the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce, was the Master of Ceremonies for the seventh year in a row. Because of the generosity of many community sponsorships, donations and advertisements, we were once again able to surpass our fundraising goal of \$30,000 for Dutchess Outreach's programs.

**Peter Berbec** of **Domino's Pizza**, **Vassar Temple**, and **Ulster Savings Bank** were recognized for their extraordinary commitment to the work of Dutchess Outreach.



Vassar Temple was honored for their extraordinary service to Dutchess Outreach. Pictured from left to right: Jenny, Susan, Perla, Bob Abrams (Temple President), Rachel, Stan, Wendy, Emily, Murray, Mary, Carolynn

## A special thanks to our sponsors

Aaron's, Inc., Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp., Covanta Hudson Valley, Domino's Pizza, First Niagara Bank, First Student, Gap, Inc., Health Quest Systems, Inc., Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, IBM, M & T Bank, Macy's, Marist College, Marshall & Sterling, Inc., Pan Gregorian, Rocking Horse Ranch, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, ToniPhil Enterprises, Inc., Ulster Savings Bank, Vassar College, WSP Group.



Peter Berbec of Domino's Pizza was honored for delivering fresh, hot pizzas on a weekly basis to the Lunch Box for the past four years, feeding thousands of people each year!

## Honoring Our Volunteers

This year's Volunteer Recognition Reception, sponsored by the **Orange County Trust Company** and **Theresa & Robert Dryfoos**, was held at the Henry A. Wallace Center at the FDR Presidential Library and Home to recognize and thank the generous efforts of Dutchess Outreach volunteers.

**Karl DeKeukelaere** received the *Mary Keeley Award*.



Brian presented a Community Service Award to Boy Scout Troop 182 at the Volunteer Recognition.

Karl has volunteered with the Dutchess Outreach Coat Drive for many years. He also delivers for the GIFTS Program, is the volunteer manager of the Spring Food Appeal and the Postal Workers Food Drive and currently is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors.

The *Susan DeKeukelaere Caring Heart Award* was presented to **Chessa Brolasch** and **Barbara DiStefano**. For the past two years, Chessa has asked friends and family to donate food to the Beverly Closs Food Pantry for her birthday instead of giving her presents. Barbara was unable to volunteer for eight weeks due to health reasons, but that didn't stop her; she is back volunteering every Thursday at her old station in the Lunch Box!

**Meher Dusi** and **Sadduarth Marthi** were recognized with the *Outstanding Youth Award*. Both of these young men have volunteered in the Lunch Box for ten years, since they were in the fourth grade.

*Community Service Awards* were presented to **Arlington School District/Schools**, **Boy Scout Troop 182**, **Church of the Messiah**, **Congregation Shir Chadash**, **Helen Schweitzer Realty**, **Pleasant Valley Rotary**, **Spackenkill High School Leo Club** and **Tabernacle Christian Academy**.

Special Recognition was given to **Girl Scout Troop 141** and **Rev. Gretchen Reed**. *Life Saver Awards* and *Extra Mile Awards* were also presented. For a full listing, please go to our website, [www.dutchessoutreach.org](http://www.dutchessoutreach.org) and click on events.

To all who give so freely of their time and talents - thank you.

"Feeding the homeless is not going to end world hunger, but feeding a thousand in my community and making personal connections with them is a baby step to achieving a bigger goal." - A Student Volunteer

"I don't have money to give, but I can donate my time. I want to do a food drive for Dutchess Outreach because I know what it is like to be hungry as a child. This is the least I can do." - A Volunteer

## Dutchess Outreach, Inc.

29 North Hamilton St., Suite 222

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



## Want to help Dutchess Outreach?

**Help fill our shelves - Sponsor a food drive.** *With more people needing our services, we need more food to help them. If you or your organization would be willing to sponsor a food collection, call Carol Beck at 454-3792 ext. 3250. Individual donations are always welcome. Bring goods to Dutchess Outreach, 29 N. Hamilton Street, Suite 221. Call first and we'll meet you downstairs with a cart.*

**Mail the enclosed envelope with a tax-deductible contribution to Dutchess Outreach.** *Filling out the flap helps us keep better records. To contain our costs, we would appreciate having your e-mail address for future mailings. We thank you for your continued support and send best wishes for the coming year. With your help, we will continue to assist our neighbors experiencing difficult times.*

**Gifts of stock of appreciated value can benefit both Dutchess Outreach and you - IRA owners aged 70 1/2 or older can apply donations to nonprofits like Dutchess Outreach to comply with distribution requirements.** *Direct your bank/broker/fund custodian to issue checks from your IRA which count toward required minimum distributions. Bequests are deducted from the value of the donor's estate and provide estate tax savings while benefiting Dutchess Outreach. Consult your tax advisor for specifics.*

*This newsletter is sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Hudson Valley Chapter.*

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**Brian Riddell,**  
**Executive Director**

organization, counts 1,168,354 homeless students enrolled in U.S. schools in the 11-12 school year; a record number. That's an estimated increase of 72 percent since the 2008 recession.

Closer to home, Census data reveal a thirty something percent child poverty level here in Poughkeepsie and other nearby cities. A random sampling of City residents by Poughkeepsie Plenty researchers in 2012 projected one in four of all City residents struggle to meet their nutritional needs.

So it's no wonder there are more food pantries in Dutchess County than most people can ever recall. At every one it's the same situation; almost impossible to keep up. So much in fact, at Dutchess Outreach, where we've gone from 75,000 meals to 102,000 meals annually in less than 2 years, we've had to curtail our service to four days a week. We need to raise forty-five thousand more dollars, or gather that much more food this year to, hopefully, return to full time service.

This change was not an easy decision. Especially with food stamps dwindling as recovery measures come to a close. To make matters even worse, as I write, Congress is meeting to resolve their differences over whether to cut food stamps by either \$400 Million or \$3.9 Billion a year for the next ten years. You probably know the result by now.

The fact is, almost all who come to the pantry already receive food stamps, or what are now called SNAP benefits. Do the math and it's clear. Cuts to SNAP will increase the need for a private emergency food system already taxed to the limit and that may prove to be unsustainable.

Forty-nine million Americans, three and one-half million New Yorkers and the five thousand people served by Dutchess Outreach each year

As a community of people that care about the welfare of others, I know you'll agree the number of people struggling these days is astounding. And the numbers are staggering.

According to our recent U.S. Census, 16.1 million children live at or below our nation's ridiculously low measurement of poverty. A new report from First Focus, a bipartisan child advocacy

often live without knowing where they will find their next meal. And now the plan is to cut SNAP? Is this really the time for such a SNAP decision? Follow the debate, call Congress and urge them to reconsider reducing support for those who face food shortages. Ask them to heed the call of a great Republican statesman, Abe Lincoln, who wrote in 1854 about the "legitimate object of government" in notes for an undelivered speech. Lincoln described the role of government as providing what people individually or as a group cannot provide as well, or at all, on their own.

Like what? Well, Lincoln wrote about the need to control and correct society's wrongs and secure the common good and the individual's right to education, safety, care and sustenance. "All which, in its nature, and without wrong," he noted, "requires combined action" citing, among other things, the need for charities and helping the poor.

Beyond any SNAP decisions, though, we need to take a new look at ways in which we, as a community, can reduce hunger among our neighbors. That's why Dutchess Outreach is very excited about sponsoring the Poughkeepsie Plenty Food Coalition. The PFFC is an energetic group of food and community enthusiasts, led by former Poughkeepsie Farm Project Director Susan Grove working on designing a new food system in the City of Poughkeepsie. One based on the assertion that access to good food is a human right.

When you think about what food means to each of us--our survival on this planet--it really is hard to argue. Everyone is a part of this great creation and everyone should be able to live and partake in its air and water and share in the land's bounty. We can't live without it.

Transforming a system where food is a commodity to one where it is a right will not happen overnight. Food is big business. And now the food banks are too. But from production to distribution to disposal, there's an awful lot of waste.

Right now we share that excess at the end of the cycle; just before the quality suffers, the product reaches expiration date, or spoils. This is the donated food that is distributed through regional food banks at high cost and is part of what is donated at local pantries.

People deserve better. If this food system provides enough surplus at the production end, we should be able to make changes so people nutritionally at-risk have access at the start instead. And with cost savings in handling, transporting and storing food, the enhanced access approach would likely be more cost-efficient. Among other efforts Poughkeepsie Plenty has taken on the challenge. To be sure it won't be easy or, daresay, a snap.



# UPDATE 2013

## In Memory

**Barbara Lumb** was a woman of many interests and passions, including travel, gardening, reading and cooking. Barbara's history of employment and volunteerism shows a life-long commitment to the City of Poughkeepsie and her greater community. She sat on many Boards, including Dutchess Outreach as Board Chair.

**Ella Spooner** was Brian's mentor when he began working at Dutchess Outreach. Because of her love of her community, she found herself involved with many local charitable organizations. Mrs. Spooner was known as the "nice lady" at Dutchess Outreach in the early 80's, who would help needy people in their most desperate times with food, furniture, clothing and rent assistance.

Both of these remarkable women will be greatly missed.

## Community Support

- Cram the Classroom, the district-wide food and supply drive organized by **Arlington Central School District**, was a huge success. Over 8,000 items were collected and donated for the food pantry! Way to go!
- With a Kind Heart, led by **Geeta Gorwara**, raised \$3,000 for Lunch Box evening meals.
- **Aaron's, Inc.** served in the Lunch Box and were a sponsor of the Seventh Annual Brunch.
- With the help of some foundations, we were able to keep our food supply stocked, have Emergency Assistance funds and receive general operation support. Thank you to some of this year's funders: **BJ's Foundation, Bank of America, Dyson Foundation, United Way, Community Foundation, Key Bank, MAZON.**



Dutchess Outreach Board Members volunteering at the Lunch Box.

## Social Media to the Rescue

When we first began experiencing an extraordinary increase of people needing our Beverly Closs Food Pantry services, we sent out an appeal to our Facebook followers for help. Thanks to so many dedicated and concerned community members, not only did we receive a huge increase in "followers," but also many messages asking how you can help. Many of you came through with generous food drives, creative fundraisers, food and monetary donations and some of you helped by just spreading the word. We went from 330 "likes"

to 630 "likes!" If you haven't done so already, please "like" us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Dutchess\\_Outreach](http://www.facebook.com/Dutchess_Outreach). Thank you.

## 30 Ways In 30 Days

The volunteer committee launched a calendar project this past September during Hunger Action Month, called "30 Ways in 30 Days" in effort to educate people and involve the



Even some of our youngest volunteers collected spare change in participation of Hunger Action month for Dutchess Outreach!

community in new and fun ways. A few ideas included: starting a spare change jar to donate to Dutchess Outreach, living a day on a food stamp budget of \$4.50 per person, and serving a meal in the Lunch Box. **Chili's** in Poughkeepsie and **2 Taste Food and Wine Bar** in Hyde Park also participated by donating 10% of their sales to Dutchess Outreach on specific days.

## From Farm to Food Pantry

**Fishkill Farms, Huguenot Street Farm and Poughkeepsie Farm Project** have continually, spring through fall, supplied our food pantry and Lunch Box with fresh vegetables. On a weekly basis, farm fresh vegetables from collard greens to zucchini were picked up from the farms and delivered to our food pantry by volunteers. Many veggies were received in numerous varieties, which was an educational process, as well as nutritious. Thank you, local farmers!

## Keeping You Informed

Did you know just by visiting our website you can see upcoming events and special announcements? Visit [www.dutchessoutreach.org](http://www.dutchessoutreach.org) to check out our food pantry item of the week, coat drives dates, annual Brunch information and much more! Also, beginning next year, we will be sending out quarterly e-newsletters to keep our donors and volunteers better informed of what is happening at Dutchess Outreach and in the community. If you are interested in receiving our updates by e-mail, please subscribe on our home page. If you decide it's not what you want, you can "unsubscribe" at any time. Suggestions on how we can make things better? Questions? Please e-mail Falicia Chance, Development Associate, at [falicia@dutchessoutreach.org](mailto:falicia@dutchessoutreach.org).

## Welcome

After interning over the summer from Vassar College, we officially welcomed **Velvet Duncan** in September as a part-

# From our Caseworkers' Notebooks

*Many people think of the Lunch Box or Food Pantry when they hear "Dutchess Outreach," but our case managers see much more than people in need of food. Here are just two examples of the situations our case managers see every day.*

### Case No. 1

*Joyce, a single mother of two young children and with only \$200 in her bank account, owed \$2,505 in back rent due to losing her job. In order to stop the eviction process, the landlord required the payment in full. A local social services agency denied her because she didn't have a steady income. Although Joyce had just accepted a new job, she was not due to start the position until two days before her eviction date. Our case manager called the agency and explained the situation, but they still refused to help her. After several more calls and speaking to a supervisor, the social services agency finally agreed to help with \$2,000. With their commitment, the client's \$200 and a grant from Dutchess Outreach for \$305, Joyce and her family no longer faced homelessness. Although it was a lengthy process, the case manager's advocacy combined with a one-time emergency assistance grant, this single mother, her 2-month-old baby and 3-year-old daughter were saved from being out on the streets.*

### Case No. 2

*Dutchess Outreach had received an urgent call from a mother of two small children, ages one month and six years old. The apartment they were living in was without heat due to a broken furnace for several months. To keep her and her children warm, the mother used electric heaters. Heating costs were included in her monthly rent, but not electric. Despite numerous unanswered*

*phone complaints to the landlord, the only response she ever received was that "nothing could be done about the situation." Obviously heating an apartment with electric heaters is inefficient, unsafe and expensive. She eventually racked up a \$700.00 Central Hudson bill, which she was unable to pay. The situation had reached a critical point and she feared she would be forced to enter the emergency shelter system as she and her two small children could no longer afford to stay in an apartment with no heat. They were in real danger of becoming homeless.*

*One of our case managers placed a call to the Health Department and spoke to the inspector about the obvious disregard of health and safety codes this landlord displayed. The health inspector informed the landlord that he had 48 hours to repair the furnace. The landlord quickly responded.*

*The case manager then turned her attention to the significant electric bill the client was unable to pay. She contacted Central Hudson and explained the client's plight. She advocated for a smaller balance that the client could handle and negotiated a payment agreement with Central Hudson.*

*Through our case management, Dutchess Outreach was able to successfully advocate and negotiate a long-term solution for this client and her family. She and her children are not homeless. They are not cold. The lights are on. And perhaps more importantly, she now knows what to do if a similar situation occurs again.*

"I just wanted to thank you for your help. I realize that you went above and beyond to help me and my family and I know you didn't have to." - An Emergency Assistance Client

time case manager. **Frederick Oliver** also joined Dutchess Outreach in September as the assistant Lunch Box manager.

## Board of Directors

Five members of our board completed their service this past year. A special thank you goes to **Billie Dunn, Kyro Ojulo, James Passikoff, Ann St. Germain** and **Kelly Traver** for their past service. In addition, we have welcomed two new board members, **Robin J. Kleban** and **Amy Woods**.

## Dutchess Masonic District Charity Ball

On March 22, 2013, the **Dutchess Masonic District Masons** held a Charity Ball at the Dutchess Manor in Beacon, NY to benefit Dutchess Outreach's programs. The event was organized by **Trooper Robert Hogan** and **Dr. Mark Mason**. Attendees were kept thoroughly entertained with a cocktail hour, dinner, dancing, contests, a magician and a silent auction. Lots of fun was had by all while also raising \$1,000. Thank you!

## The CrowdRise Holiday Challenge

The CrowdRise Holiday Challenge begins on November 18, 2013 and runs through January 9, 2014. The nonprofit that raises the most gets \$100,000! Second place gets \$40,000 and third gets \$20,000. There will be another \$40,000 given away in cash and prizes throughout the challenge. The Huffington

Post is also giving away lots of other prizes throughout the challenge, including media coverage.

CrowdRise is one of the fastest growing online fundraising websites, dubbed the "Facebook of philanthropy." CrowdRise is a unique blend of crowd-funding, social networking and contests, with the goal of making charitable giving fun. Setting up a page takes less than a minute. Then, friends and family can be invited to be sponsors by donating any amount of money, large or small. To help Dutchess Outreach in the Holiday Challenge, please donate here: [www.crowdrise.com/dutchessoutreach](http://www.crowdrise.com/dutchessoutreach).



Arlington Central School District's Cram the Classroom's spring food drive collection.

## Dutchess Outreach, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

(Unaudited)

### PUBLIC SUPPORT

Contributions	\$179,097
United Way	52,575
Federal / State Grants	54,853
Other Grants	261,125
Special Projects	97,812

### OTHER REVENUE

Medicaid	11,038
Investment Income	23,921
Miscellaneous	32,475

**TOTAL REVENUE** \$732,450

### EXPENSES

Program Services	\$573,199
Supporting Services	106,258
Fundraising	73,396

**TOTAL EXPENSES** \$752,853



## 1974 - 2013 39 YEARS OF FOOD, CLOTHING AND CARING

### Program Services FY 2012-2013

Our fiscal year ending June 30, 2013 was Dutchess Outreach's 39th year of serving Dutchess County residents who have little or no income and need help locating basic, life-sustaining resources.

### Beverly H. Closs Food Pantry

provided 102,447 meals for 1,911 unique families, including 1,805 children. Every month, clients are eligible to receive enough food for three days.

### GIFTS (Giving Individuals Food for The Soul)

provided 4,062 home delivered meals to 14 homebound people living with HIV/AIDS and to their dependents.

### The Lunch Box

our mid-day meal program served 81,589 free meals and our evening dinner program served 28,049 meals to individuals who were either unemployed, homeless, or did not earn a living wage. Our two after-school programs provided another 6,628 meals to students. The Lunch Box also hosts programs on topics of interest to clients and is open six days a week from Sunday to Friday.

### The Emergency Assistance Program

distributed \$24,720 in grants to purchase needed prescriptions for 241 people. With \$29,188 in grants and effective advocacy and referral we were able to prevent the eviction of 300 people, including 118 children; \$16,937 in grants and our caseworkers' intervention kept the lights or the heat on for another 537 people, of whom 249 were children.

### Children's Clothes Closet

provided 880 visitors with free, used clothing for their children.

### Annual Coat Drive / Giveaway

collected over 5,000 coats, distributed through seven sites around Dutchess County: Beacon, Hyde Park, Miller-ton, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, Rhinebeck and Fishkill.

### Acts of Kindness (AOK)

worked with 28 human services agencies to provide 1,208 clients with household items which they cannot afford to purchase on their own.

### Staff

**Brian Riddell**  
*Executive Director*  
**Kathleen O'Rourke Murphy**  
*Associate Director*  
**Tara Whalen**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
**Falicia Chance**  
*Development Associate*  
**Carol Beck**  
*Volunteer Administrator*  
**Carol Hegener**  
*Office Assistant*  
**Velvet Duncan**  
*Case Manager*  
**Roberto Abadia**  
*Case Manager*  
**Rosemary Grabowska**  
*Reception*  
**Frederick Oliver**  
*Assistant Lunch Box Manager*  
**John Ridgeway**  
*Lunch Box Assistant*

### Officers

**Owen T. Clarke, Jr.**  
*Chairperson*  
**Karl DeKeukelaere**  
*Vice Chair*  
**Bharat Thakkar**  
*Treasurer*  
**Cindy Smith**  
*Secretary*

### Directors

Mark Burlingame  
Robert Caso  
Joseph Conti  
Elizabeth Cookinham  
Robin J. Kleban  
Victoria Mara  
Brendon McGahan  
Lisa Morris  
Jillian Perry  
Erika Stavanau  
Christa St. Germain  
Dora Visbeck  
Amy K. Woods

### Directors Emeritus

L. Wallace Cross  
Geraldo M.V. DePorres  
Roderick J. MacLeod, Esq.