

COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

Sharing the Essentials of Living for 20 Years



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

OUR MISSION

To improve the well-being of our neighbors in need, by providing food, clothing and access to other resources.

A MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND SUPPORTERS

The Community Center of Northern Westchester is pleased to present this report on 2011, as we mark our 20th year of sharing the essentials of living with neighbors in need in Northern Westchester. The Center's core activities — providing food, clothing and guidance to local families in need — are as vital as ever, serving more such families than ever in this time of economic turmoil and distress. Our corps of volunteers donated more than 50,000 hours of service in 2011, enabling the Center to serve over 1,800 families from more than 30 different Northern Westchester communities during that year.

True to its mission of finding better ways to serve our neighbors, the Center continues to cultivate new ideas, many leading to widening collaborations across the community. It is broadening its scope to host different kinds of health clinics offered by Northern Westchester Hospital and other organizations; it has engaged new partners to bring nutrition education to families of limited means in our community; and new partners increasingly come forth with ways for our neighbors to gain job skills or other practical proficiencies. All these initiatives share our aim of helping families attain their goal of self-sufficiency with dignity.

The Center depends on the generosity of the community to do its work, and we are gratified by the community's largess: families, schools and other groups that pitch in with food drives; local farms that share their bounty of fresh produce with families needing a hand; more and more youth in our community, seeking meaningful ways to deliver community service; and families and individuals who share the belief that our community can — and should — help its neighbors. We hope that the Center's accomplishments, detailed in this report, will strengthen that conviction in this, our 20th year of neighbors helping neighbors.



With warm regards,

Sherry Wolf
Executive Director

Sheryl Bernhard
Board President

10 FACTS ABOUT THE COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER IN 2011

- Nearly 1,800 families came to us for help in 2011, 10 times the number that came to the Center 20 years ago.
- Children comprise 33% of those who received food from the Center's Food Pantry.
- 184 tons of food were distributed to families during over 7,300 Food Pantry visits.
- 83 tons of donated clothes, shoes and linens were distributed during more than 8,000 visits to our Clothing Bank.
- Volunteers gave over 50,000 hours of service.
- 540 children received new school supplies.
- 660 children received new sleepwear for the holidays.
- More than 800 students attended classes and workshops to improve their skills.
- We help neighbors in need from more than 30 communities in Northern Westchester.
- Over the Center's 20 years, families have made over 82,000 visits to our Food Pantry.

"We admire the outstanding service the Community Center consistently delivers and we are inspired by the compassionate and caring spirit that is emblematic of its work."

Lee Roberts, Bedford Town Supervisor

OUR FOOD PANTRY

We provide Northern Westchester residents from 30 communities with supplemental food — about 4 to 5 days worth of food per person, once a month — in our choice-style pantry. Volunteer food drives help stock the pantry shelves year-round. Clients choose the items they want, including frozen meat, eggs, and, thanks to a grant from MBIA Foundation and donations from local farms, nutritious fresh produce throughout the year.

“But there, for the Grace of God, go I. The Community Center is all about people helping people. It treats its clients with dignity and respect. Facing hunger is never a choice.”

Ali Giglio, volunteer & Community Partner



“I appreciate the Community Center of Northern Westchester because they have helped my family in supplying food and clothing and, above all, a warm and inviting atmosphere. I thank them for offering me classes and advice to become self-sufficient.”

Michelle W.

OUR CLOTHING BANK

Our very generous local community donates gently used seasonal clothes, shoes and linens to our clothing bank, where families in need select these items at no charge. We call this facility our Clothing Boutique — denoting a place where our clients can “shop” with dignity.

SEASONAL & SPECIAL DRIVES

During the year, the Center spearheads drives to collect special items for families of limited means: prom and graduation attire for high school students; school supplies and books to fill children's backpacks; special holiday foods for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays; and new children's sleepwear for the December holidays.

"Just wanted to send a sincere note of appreciation for offering and providing prom dresses for L. at the Elephant's Trunk...it was really an unexpected surprise and a delight to see her so thrilled and lovely in her dress, not to mention a huge burden off my shoulders. It meant so much to her and to me as well..."

C.R.



"I had such a positive experience through outreach that I started volunteering. They even found a meaningful task for my disabled adult daughter. On so many fronts, I can't say enough about the Community Center."

Sue Gamache, RN, MSN & retired Outreach Coordinator,
Northern Westchester Hospital

ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR CLIENTS

We offer our clients free job counseling, health screenings, donations of used furniture, free eye exams and eyeglasses from Lenscrafters and OneSight Foundation, and, as available, scholarships to schools, summer camp, and higher education.

HELPING CLIENTS ATTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY



The Center offers a range of classes and workshops designed to help individuals improve their skills, to better manage limited resources, and to attain self-sufficiency. Classes include:

- English language instruction
- Advanced English and civics
- Computer training
- Basic construction skills courses
- Career and job counseling
- Food and nutrition workshops

Volunteers enrich and enliven many of these classes by donating their time, skills, and enthusiasm.

"I have been coming to the Community Center for clothes, English classes, and construction skills classes. I now have my own handyman business. I am grateful to all the volunteers and teachers at the Center who have helped me."
Carlos M.



TEACHING NUTRITION ON A BUDGET



Our nutrition workshops help families cope with uncertain or limited access to affordable and nutritious food.

Our *Food for Thought: Eating Well on a Budget* workshops engage families in making healthy choices and stretching their food dollars.

We host Cornell University's *Eat Smart New York* nutrition course for adults, which offers food safety basics, meal planning, budget-minded grocery shopping strategies and cooking demonstrations.

"I am most grateful for the help my family is receiving at the Community Center. I am so thankful to all the people that help out with kindness and helpfulness every day."

L.D.K.

"The help the Community Center has given me is very valuable... it is priceless. It helps not just me, it helps me help my family. I can never repay all of you for all you have done for me."

Maria D.

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Lee Allen

TEMPLE BETH EL OF N. WESTCHESTER, CHAPPAQUA
Nancy Grundman

TEMPLE SHAARAY TEFILA, BEDFORD CORNERS
Deborah Adelberg

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF MT. KISCO
Kathryn Dinin

VOLUNTEERS: THE LIFEBLOOD OF THE COMMUNITY CENTER

The spirit of voluntarism and caring that runs deeply through our community finds a willing home at the Center. Without the energy, time, skills and commitment of hundreds of dedicated volunteers, the Center simply could not do what it does. Our volunteers encompass teenagers eager to perform community service, parents sharing the spirit of giving with their school-aged children and retirees ready to give back to their community.

“The Community Center of Northern Westchester is a very warm and welcoming place for volunteers, donors and members of our community in need, to come together. I’ve been volunteering at the Center for over 3 years now and I love the experience of giving back to my community.”
Dolly Hall, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry



“Volunteering at the Community Center makes you feel like a part of something much larger than yourself. I am fortunate to be part of an organization that touches so many lives.”

Dan Gadigian, Hobart College

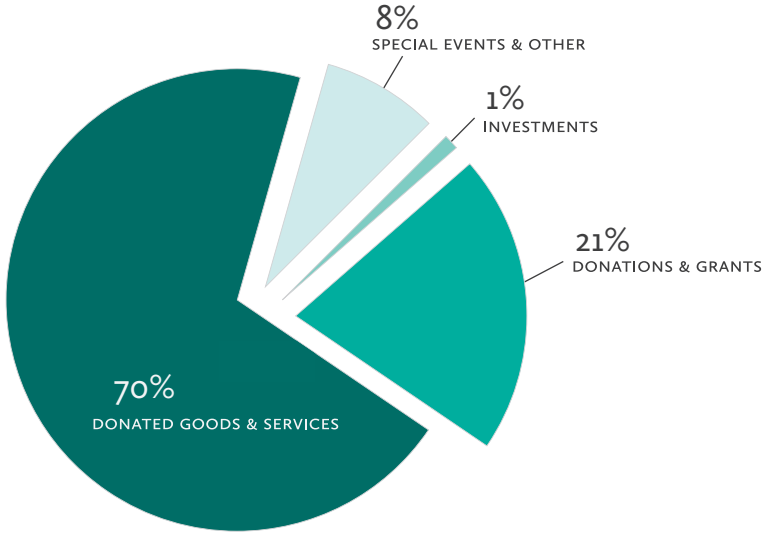
FINANCIALS

	2011	2010
INCOME		
Donated Goods & Services	\$ 1,067,792	\$ 1,001,044
Donations & Grants	\$ 319,732	\$ 262,446
Special Events & Other	\$ 124,021	\$ 128,756
Investments	\$ 16,187	\$ 48,016
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1,527,732	\$ 1,440,262
EXPENSES		
Food & Clothing Services	\$ 1,247,463	\$ 1,119,808
Educational Classes	\$ 71,195	\$ 56,052
School Supplies	\$ 13,188	\$ 10,403
Management & General	\$ 59,445	\$ 66,480
Fund-raising	\$ 67,995	\$ 44,748
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,459,286	\$ 1,297,491
NON-OPERATING EXPENSES (DEPRECIATION)	29,943	28,905
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	38,503	113,866
BALANCE SHEET		
Total Assets	\$ 1,264,753	\$ 1,226,269
Liabilities	\$ 19,562	\$ 19,581
Net Assets	\$ 1,245,191	\$ 1,206,688
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 1,264,753	\$ 1,226,269

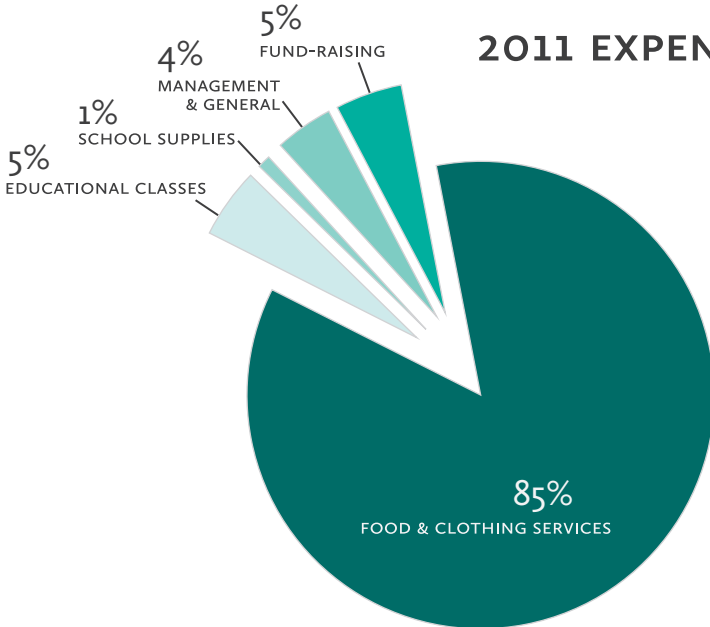
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED AND BOARD RESTRICTED ASSETS: \$629,191;
UNRESTRICTED ASSETS: \$616,000

Monetary donations, from sources including individuals, foundations, and our Community Partners, provide the financial support to help our neighbors in need.

2011 INCOME



2011 EXPENSES



COMMUNITY CENTER OF NORTHERN WESTCHESTER

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