

Food Pantries for the Capital District



SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEEDS SINCE 1978

HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY

## **OUR MISSION:**

Food Pantries for the Capital District is a coalition of 50 food pantries working together, in a spirit of cooperation, to do together those things that no one of us can do alone.

Our mission is to serve hungry people in the Capital District through member food pantries. We support our pantries by purchasing, collecting, and delivering food. We provide a forum for networking, coordination of efforts, education and training.

We are a voice for those who are hungry.

Food Pantries for the Capital District  
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## Board of Directors:

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Ms. Lynda Schuyler	Executive Director

## **MEMBER PROGRAMS OF FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT:**

Albany County Opportunity, Cohoes Outreach  
Albany United Methodist Society  
Altamont Community Food Pantry  
Arbor Hill Community Center  
Bethlehem Food Pantry  
Blessed Sacrament Church Food Pantry  
Cathedral Social Services  
Catholic Charities of Rensselaer County Food Pantry  
Center City Parish Social Ministry  
Colonie Christian Love Center  
Commission on Economic Opportunity  
Concerns-U  
Dr Jay MacDonald Towers Food Pantry  
Doors of Hope  
Faith and Love Fellowship  
First Church in Albany  
Focus Interfaith Food Pantry  
Guilderland Interfaith Council Food Pantry  
Hilltowns Community Resource Center  
Hoosic Area Church Association Food Pantry  
Hope 7 Food Pantry  
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Food Pantry  
Israel AME Church  
Mt. Ida Community Food Pantry  
Nassau Resource Center  
New Scotland Community Food Pantry  
Onesquethaw Reformed Church Food Pantry  
Our Lady of Mercy Food Pantry  
Pittstown Area Food Pantry  
Roarke Center  
Sacred Heart Outreach  
St. Ambrose Food Pantry  
St. Clare's Food Pantry  
St. Francis DeSales Food Pantry  
St. James Food Pantry  
St. John's/St Ann's Center  
St. Mary's Outreach  
The pantry @ St. Patrick's (Ravena)  
St. Patrick's (Troy)  
St. Teresa of Avila Parish  
Saint Vincent De Paul Food Pantry  
Salvation Army Food Pantry (Albany)  
Salvation Army (Cohoes)  
The Anchor  
The Gathering Place

Trinity Institution-Homer Perkins Center  
Trinity United Methodist Church, Coeyman's Hollow  
Troy Larger Parish Food Pantry  
United Church of Cohoes  
Unity House

### **THOSE WE SERVE:**

In 2008, our member pantries provided, at minimum 2,074,537 meals to our neighbors in need. We served 86,511 children including 6,021 infants, 107,280 adults and 14,625 seniors. The number of individuals served went up by 23,423 and the number of meals provided rose by 156,296.

Last year, 42% of those served in our pantries were children, 51% were adults and 7% were seniors.

### **Educating Ourselves and Our Community;**

We collect both monthly and year end statistics from our member pantries. The monthly statistics count individuals served each month broken down by infants, children, adults and seniors. They are also asked to estimate the number of meals provided to each person served on a monthly basis. From these numbers, we arrive at the number of meals provided annually and a breakdown of need by age.

The collected numbers are shared with elected officials, the news media, funders and interested groups and individuals in our community. The prevalence of hunger is stressed in our brochures and in correspondence with the community.

We refer people in need to local food pantries every day.

We provide our pantries and other service organizations in our area with printed materials to help them in their work.

Our Resource Guides contain information for anyone in need of emergency assistance. They include information on where to get emergency food, shelter, and medical care as well as contact information for clothing, furniture providers, hotlines, legal services, and support services. The guides are available for both Albany and Rensselaer Counties and are updated twice annually.

Our Agency Listing Guide provides program staff with the contact information that they need to refer those they serve to local service agencies.

The Street Listing Guide is the backbone of our one person, one pantry policy for service.

### **FOOD PANTRIES WORKING TOGETHER - Educating Ourselves**

In 2008, our members met monthly to share ideas and concerns. It is the only organized opportunity for the directors of each pantry to gather. The meetings also have an educational component. We invite other service organizations to bring information about their work to our meeting.

Meeting topics in 2008 included:

Strategies for meeting the increased demand  
Helping pantries to provide extra Holiday Food and local holiday programs through Catholic Charities and the Salvation Army  
Documentation requirements for pantry services  
Client choice  
Services for Seniors (presented by Senior Service of both Albany and Rensselaer Counties)  
AIDS Services and safe needle exchange programs  
United Tenants –housing and eviction issues  
Just say yes to fruits and vegetables  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Eat Smart NY  
HANNYS –gardening in a bucket

## **PROJECTS OF FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT:**

### **THE FOOD WAREHOUSE:**

The Food Warehouse is the first project of Food Pantries for the Capital District. The goal of the warehouse is to make available to our member pantries basic non-perishable food items. These items are provided, in limited quantities, at no charge to our members. To maximize productivity, we purchase foods that are not available through USDA commodities or food donations to the Regional Food Bank. We try to supplement what is available elsewhere, not duplicate.

Items most often in stock include: beef stew, canned fruit, canned vegetables, tuna, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly, egg noodles, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, pork and beans, instant potatoes, rice, spaghetti, cereal, spaghetti rings, pancake mix, powdered milk, syrup, infant formula and diapers. Mixed cases of food, donated by individuals and through food drives are also distributed through the warehouse.

In 2008, \$120,154 was spent on food items. This was an increase of \$14,609 over 2007 expenditures.. An additional \$26,266 was spent on Infant needs and \$50,000 was spent to assist pantries to provide Holiday meals.

### **FOOD DRIVES:**

Throughout the year, individuals, office groups, church groups, schools and other civic organizations conduct food drives to benefit the needy. These drives are important, not just for the amount of food that they raise but for the awareness that is raised as well. Food collection boxes stand as a reminder of the need as well as a receptacle for the response.

We provide groups with information and ideas to help them plan their food drive. Additionally, if a group collects a large amount of food, we send a truck to pick it up. When the drive is conducted by a school or youth organization, we will send the truck regardless of the size of the donation. In September, we do a mailing to groups to encourage hosting a drive.

The largest, and oldest ongoing, food drives are conducted by the Postal Workers in October and repeated in mid May. The Postal Workers Drive originated Albany and is now conducted nationwide.

### **THE FOOD EXPRESS:**

The goal of Food Express is to enable our member food pantries to distribute not only more food, but as much food as their budgets allow. The amount of food distributed from local pantries has far outpaced the capacity of the church van or family truck. Sharing the use of the Food Express truck is an effective way for our pantries to work in coalition.

The number of deliveries and the number of pounds delivered has increased each year since the project began.

YEAR	TONS DELIVERED
2000	110
2001	350
2002	434
2003	503
2004	520
2005	542
2006	576
2007	607
2008	617

### **THE FOOD SHUTTLE:**

The Food Shuttle is a food rescue project. The goal of the project is to prevent usable food from going to waste while people in our neighborhoods remain hungry. Instead of throwing away day old bread, produce and dairy products, our staff and volunteers pick up the food from local retailers and deliver it to pantries. From there, it can be quickly and easily distributed to needy families. Food is picked up from participating retailers beginning at 6:30am and is on pantry shelves by mid morning. In 2008, 237,440 pounds of food was rescued and distributed.

RETAILERS PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD SHUTTLE:

BJ's	Price Chopper (3 locations)
Bountiful Bread	Starbucks (3 locations)
Honest Weight Food Co-op	Stewart's Shops( 8 locations)
Pepperidge Farms	Uncommon Grounds

**FUNDING/EXPENDITURES FOR FOOD PANTRIES FOR THE CAPITAL DISTRICT**

**CONTRIBUTION Income:**

Church Groups	1,650.00
Civic groups	2,707.00
Collection Cans	150.67
Corporate donations	10,928.66
Fall Phone Drive	301,844.42
Federal Campaign Income	922.71
GE Foundation matching funds	1,485.00
Individuals	49,058.66
Office Groups	11,754.66
School Groups	115.00
SEFA	52,500.82
United Way	1,751.08
Online Donations	12,697.45
<b>Total CONTRIBUTION Income</b>	<b>447,566.13</b>

**GRANT Income:**

Christmas Wish	1,500.00
Community Foundation	1,000.00
Emergency Food and Shelter	54,179.00
Legislative Member Item	15,000.00
Reilly Grant	5,000.00
Ronald MacDonald Charities	5,583.00
Stewart's Foundation	4,500.00
Trombly Foundation	1,000.00
<b>Total GRANTS</b>	<b>86,762.00</b>

**EVENT Income:**

Chili Bake Sale	7,220.00
Calendar Sales	2,203.84
Autumn Evening Income	5,076.33
Auction Income	7,622.00
Crop Walk Income	24,664.00
Outside Events Income	2,385.00
<b>Total EVENTS</b>	<b>49,171.17</b>

**EARNED Income:**

<b>Rental Income</b>	10,592.00
<b>Interest Income</b>	2,145.98
<b>Investment Income:</b>	8,220.25
<b>Total EARNED INCOME</b>	<u>20,958.23</u>

<b>Donated Equipment In-Kind</b>	320.00
<b>Donated food</b>	157,605.00

<b>Total Administrative</b>	148,610.81
<b>Total Building Expenses</b>	31,747.54
<b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	142,346.47
<b>Total Truck Expenses</b>	32,867.84
<b>Total Program Supplies</b>	<u>204,128.27</u>

#### A note from Lynda

2008 was a year of great challenges. When prices for the basic necessities of food and fuel started to go up in early summer our pantries began to brace themselves for the challenges of fall and winter. Little did we know that the economy was about to head straight downhill and bring even more to our doors. The months of September through December brought frightening increases in the number of people who needed our help.

It is during the toughest times and the most challenging times that I realize how proud I am of our work and more importantly of the work of the staff and volunteers in our pantries. They rolled up their sleeves, rose to the occasion and saw to it that their neighbors were fed.

During 2008, everything we did had a growth spurt. New pantries joined the coalition and we reached an all time high of 50 members. We purchased more food, delivered more food and rescued more food. To support that, we added events and increased all of our fund raising efforts. The community rose to the occasions and supported our work with both an increase in donations and an increase in offers to volunteer.

We look forward with an attitude of hope. When we began our work 30 years ago, we truly believed that we would put ourselves out of business within a few years. I am not certain that we will put ourselves out of business in the next few years, but I do believe that more of our neighbors will find that they no longer need our help and that for everyone who does move forward there will be rejoicing.