



MEET THE NEWSMAKER

Name: Christina Rohatynskij
Position: Executive Director
Association: Food Bank of Westchester
Location: Westchester, NY

Q. YOUR ORGANIZATION HAD A MAJOR FUND RAISER THIS MONTH, WHAT ROLE DOES IT PLAY?

A. This is the 20th year of the event. There will be a huge cocktail party and then 25 of the top chefs from Westchester and other incredible edibles including Fairway market that just opened in Pelham will attend.

Q. HOW DOES THIS EVENT TIE INTO THE GOALS OF THE FOOD BANK?

A. All of the proceeds go towards our operation. The funds from this particular event are earmarked towards the elimination of childhood hunger in Westchester. Of 200,000 people in the county that are hungry or at risk, 33% are children.

Q. IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT A COUNTY AS WEALTHY AS WESTCHESTER WOULD HAVE A PROBLEM LIKE HUNGER?

A. Don't let the mega mansions fool you. The reality is that the county is very much a working class area. There are of course cities, villages and some very rural areas, so there is a real mix of economic livelihoods.

Q. ARE THE FOOD BANK'S NEEDS A REFLECTION OF DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES?

A. No this is not a new problem. We have been around for two

years as one of eight food banks around New York State so there

is a definite hunger problem in the state and in the country and in our community. Certainly the tough economic times of the last few years have exacerbated that with people's work hours being cut back so our employment be in their only source of income.

Q. IF YOU WERE A RESTAURATEUR OR DISTRIBUTOR AND

WANTED TO GET INVOLVED, WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP AND WHAT COULD A COMPANY GET OUT OF HELPING?

A. Call me. Besides the good karma and great feeling of helping out we will handle your donation as required by law and I can guarantee that it will find its way to somebody that desperately needs it.