

### Food Bank for Westchester to Delivers More than 7,000 Pounds of Food to Westchester's Hungry

The Food Bank for Westchester has made a commitment to provide "nutrition - not just calories" to hungry Westchester residents by increasing access to fresh foods. It supported that commitment through its Rapid Food Distribution (RFD) program, which recently handed out over 7,000 pounds of produce to more than 360 people at Union Baptist Church, New Rochelle.

RFD was designed to take advantage of large truckload donations of fresh food offered through Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity. RFD enables the Food Bank for Westchester to overcome barriers associated with traditional fresh food distribution by delivering it directly to individuals who are hungry.

"In addition to the individuals who waited in line for food, we also delivered produce to more than 50 homebound families," said Christina Rohatynskyj, Executive Director, Food Bank for Westchester. "The nearly 1,500 pounds of produce that remained after the program was divided among the five participating agencies in the RFD program and was put into the hands of even more families who struggle to put food on their tables."

According to Feeding America's website, "more than one in three client households are experiencing very low food security-or hunger-a 54 percent increase in the number of households compared to four years ago."

RFD delivers approximately 25,000 pounds of fresh food monthly to five member agencies which are centrally located for easy client access. Member agency volunteers assist the Food Bank in registering clients and handing out the produce.

Food Bank for Westchester plans to deliver fresh produce to at least four central distribution depots in Westchester each month. New truckloads of fresh produce are delivered to varying communities by Food Bank for Westchester, who is notified of exact dates only when the truck is en route, and then works quickly with its member agencies and soup kitchens to arrange distribution channels.

For additional information about the Food Bank for Westchester, visit [www.foodbankforwestchester.org](http://www.foodbankforwestchester.org) or call 914-923-1100. The Food Bank for Westchester is located at 358 Saw Mill River Road, Millwood, NY 10546.



Left to right: Nancy Claiborn, Shiloh Baptist Church; Agency Director for the soup kitchen and food pantry, Union Baptist Church, New Rochelle; Jean Anderson, Agency Director for the soup kitchen and food pantry for Union Baptist Church; Toby Pidgeon, Nutrition Resource Manager/ Food Acquisition for the Food Bank for Westchester; and Charlotte Diakanwa and Liz Ellis, Salvation Army.