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Citrin Cooperman to Provide Hands-On Support to Food Bank For Westchester

Citrin Cooperman is getting out of the accounting and tax business, at least for one afternoon, when its employees will transition to the food packaging business in the name of community service.

On Nov. 7, the firm plans to close its White Plains office early as partners and staff donate their time at the Food Bank for Westchester's Millwood facility to re-package donated food into boxes and containers for redistribution to hunger-relief organizations located in Westchester County.

"With the upcoming holidays, we count our blessings individually and as a firm," said Alan Badey, partner in charge of Citrin Cooperman's White Plains office. "At a time of great joy, we also recognize that there are others who are experiencing tough times and are having difficulty putting food on the table. Citrin Cooperman has a long history of involvement with the greater Westchester community, and this is just another way of giving back."

For one of Citrin Cooperman's partners, the connection goes back at least 15 years. Spencer Barback's work with the Food Bank dates back to the 1990s, and includes serving three years as president of the organization and his current role as board member.

"At an unprecedented time of need for many in Westchester County, Citrin Cooperman, is taking the unusual step of closing the office for the afternoon, in order to support the Food Bank," said Barback.

Westchester County has a great deal of wealth, but there are also many residents living on the edge of poverty for whom the Food Bank is an invaluable resource. The Food Bank for Westchester estimates that approximately 200,000 county residents are hungry or at risk of hunger. Half of them are seniors; approximately one-third are children under the age of 18.

The Food Bank for Westchester acquires, warehouses and distributes more than seven million pounds of food annually to 227 Westchester County hunger-relief organizations, including food pantries and soup kitchens, among others. The mission of the Food Bank is to lead, engage and educate Westchester County in creating a hunger-free environment. Its core activity is the collection and distribution of donated, government and purchased food.

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