



Masters Sophomores Offer the Gift of Donations and Service to Help the Food Bank for Westchester

Posted December 8, 2011

To further explore the theme of food supply, on Saturday, December 3, forty sophomores and faculty assembled bright and early at the huge Food Bank of Westchester warehouse in Millwood, NY, to sort and pack food to be distributed to member agencies throughout the county. "At the end of the two-hour period we left with sore muscles and big smiles; the day was a lesson in the joy of service, and the fulfillment of hard work," commented Gillian Goodman '10.

"The students were a gift," remarked Nancy Lyons, Resource/Volunteer Coordinator for the Food Bank of Westchester. I like to think that some of the joy and energy they brought to the re-pack got packed into those cartons along with the food. Thank you so much for your wonderful efforts."

MISH kicked off its Thanksgiving season food drive on Tuesday, October 25, with a presentation by Ms. Lyons from the Food Bank for Westchester, which is leading the charge to end hunger. The core activity is the Emergency Food Distribution Program that collects, warehouses, and distributes food to member agencies that, in turn, give it to clients in their area. They are supported by volunteers, funders, food donors, and suppliers.

Following Ms. Lyons's presentation at an upper school Morning Meeting, two subsequent Jeans Days were dedicated to FBW, and \$1,250 was raised by the Masters community. The Day family, active in the work of the FBW, generously matched our gift, bringing the total to \$2,500. And due to additional grants being offered this year, our \$2,500 donation was then matched two for one at the food bank, bringing our grand total to \$7,500. Through the food bank's many partnerships, they are able to purchase food at a discount. Thus, our \$7,500 donation bought \$30,000 worth of food bank items!

All food collected during the annual food drive at Masters was delivered directly to the Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown, a member agency supplied by the FBW. The food bank was started in 2009 by a group of concerned residents and community-based organizations after realizing that the community's needs were greater than holiday distribution. The food bank survives on donations and volunteer support for organization, distribution, and outreach.

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