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daughter, Nancy Jordan, spent six years as a missionary in Chile after graduating from Notre Dame.

Children “come up with great ideas, too,” said Maureen Brennan. “They just need the adults’ help to get it organized.”

On Saturday, Jan. 29, Hunger Awareness Week officially began with 264 people being served at the soup kitchen at The Sharing Community. “The recipients were a mix of people from the shelter to people from the neighborhood, many who looked like just everyday working-class people and also a few who were children,” said Karyn Lantier, co-chair of ArdsleyCares and an organizer of Hunger Awareness Week.

Sheila Narayanan, a lead organizer for Hunger Awareness Week, and an Ardsley resident for 15 years, said roughly 25 Ardsley volunteers came to serve food to the hungry. “It was heartbreaking to see. There were families who came in — this one woman came in with two little kids. And there were couples who came in,” said Narayanan, who also said many of the people who received food over the weekend looked “very middle class,” something she was not expecting.

Chicken, baked ziti, stuffing, yams, salads and fruits were served on Saturday and Sunday, with The Sharing Community staff preparing the meals and a steady crowd consuming them. “There were clearly some people who did this [ate there] on a regular basis, because they were chatting to a couple of the kitchen staff the same way you would chit-chat with the guy at the corner deli,” said Narayanan. “We’re a community of plenty... by and large we’re an affluent community and our children especially are focused on the newest cool thing — they’re a community of wants, not a community of needs. This is the kind of work that our community should absolutely be focused on, this is how you make responsible citizens that are not self-centered and take care of the community around them,” said Narayanan.

With Hunger Awareness Week, ArdsleyCares is hoping to send the message that it is important for all children and adults fortunate enough to have food on the table to have an understanding of those who are not as lucky. As John Brennan said during his speech, “I think it’s [Hunger Awareness Week] necessary, because basically people are aware of everything else that’s going on, whether it’s a new play on Broadway or some movie that comes out, or bad news. I think it’s a positive thing to make people aware that they can help. And most people, amazingly enough, are good.”

Hunger Awareness Week continues with the food drive running at AMS and Ardsley High School through today and the sorting of food donations at The Food Bank of Westchester in Millwood tomorrow (Feb. 5).

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