

New Rochelle

R E V I E W

February 2011

Sandra Lee Visits the Food Bank for Westchester in Millwood

Sandra Lee, Food Network television host, magazine editor and book author, visited the Food Bank for Westchester and toured its warehouse Monday, January 31. Ms. Lee's visit to the Food Bank for Westchester is part of a statewide tour of Feeding America member food banks she is conducting to focus attention on the issue of hunger.

Ms. Lee initially met with Food Bank for Westchester staff, board members and representatives from local food

pantries and soup kitchens to learn about local hunger issues and concerns.

According to Food Bank for Westchester's Executive Director, Christina Rohatynskyj, "We estimate that 200,000 people in Westchester County are hungry or at risk of hunger. Nearly half of them are seniors; approximately one-third are children under the age of 18. Last year, Food Bank for Westchester distributed six million pounds of food, which was one million pounds more than the year before. We also had a 30% increase in household food requests by June 2010, and that increase has held steady every month since. The need just keeps growing."



At the Food Bank for Westchester (FBW), Sandra Lee, Food Network television host, book author and magazine editor, repacks produce in the FBW warehouse in Millwood. At right, James Degree, FBW's Warehouse Manager, presents Ms. Lee with a tee-shirt.

Ms. Lee then spoke about the problem of hunger in Westchester and her own passion for addressing the need. After answering questions and posing for photographs, she rolled up her sleeves and joined volunteers to repack fresh produce for Project Green Thumb, through which the Food Bank distributes fresh New York State produce to local food programs.

As part of the event, Jennifer Logan, from Sam's Club, a division of Wal-Mart, Inc., presented a check for \$10,000 to the Food Bank for Westchester. The check was accepted by Rohatynskyj and President of the Board of Directors, Spencer Barback.