

*Hudson Valley*

# BUSINESS JOURNAL

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## Sandra Lee visits the Food Bank for Westchester

Sandra Lee, Food Network television host, magazine editor and book author, visited the Food Bank for Westchester and toured its warehouse Monday, January 3rd. 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.

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 Rohatynskij, "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."

Lee then spoke with the media 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 Rohatynskij and President of the Board of Directors, Spencer Barback.