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Food Bank for Westchester Honors 2011 Hunger Heroes

The Food Bank for Westchester, which has been fighting hunger for 23 years, honored this year's Hunger Heroes at the 6th Annual Awards Breakfast June 7. The event recognized those who have made exceptional efforts in fighting hunger this past year.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRLog (Press Release) – Jun 16, 2011 – The Hunger Heroes Awards and this year's winners:

- The Service Provider Award went to the Yonkers Family YMCA for its comprehensive programs to fight hunger and improve lives. As one of the oldest and largest providers of multiple services in Yonkers, the Yonkers Family YMCA has tackled hunger in multiple ways and for people at all stages of life: The Kid's Café provides nutritionally balanced hot meals to more than 100 children and youths in after-school programs; the Backpack Buddies program provides bags of food to more than 60 families for the weekend; the Senior Feeding Program serves meals to more than 40 seniors three days a week; and the Adult and Community Feeding soup kitchen serves meals five days a week. In 2010, the Yonkers Family YMCA served 77,403 hot meals and handed out 1,700 Backpack bags of food.

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- The Volunteer Award was given to Steven Hunt, a 15-year volunteer for the Sacred Heart Church (Dobbs Ferry) Food for the Hungry Program, which provides food every Saturday to St. Joseph's Pantry in Yonkers. Steven works full time as a computer architect for Sloane Kettering Cancer Center, yet he still finds the time every week to manage and volunteer with the church hunger-relief program. The program serves up to 1,200 families a month, distributing about one and one-half tons of food a week at St. Joseph's Pantry plus delivering an additional 30-40 bags of food a week to people who can't come to the pantry.

- The Donor Award, which recognizes the generosity of an individual or corporation in the fight against hunger in Westchester, went to Whole Foods Market – White Plains. When the White Plains market opened seven years ago, its Team Leader reached out to the White Plains YWCA Residence, home to approximately 185 economically disadvantaged single women, and offered to donate fresh food. The food was very well received, and Whole Foods has been continuing to donate food to the residence every week since then.

- The Corporate Service Award recipient is kept secret every year until the awards breakfast. This year, the award went to the MBIA Foundation for its comprehensive support of the Food Bank through volunteering, sponsoring food drives and providing financial support. The MBIA Foundation supports many Westchester direct-service organizations, including the Lord's Pantry, White Plains; Hillside Food Outreach, Mount Pleasant; Mt. Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry; the Community Center of Northern Westchester, Katonah; St. Mary's Church Food Pantry, Mount Vernon, and Meals on Wheels.

The Golden Scoop Trophy was awarded to the corporate team that repacked the most pounds of food in the Give-Back Olympics, an annual competitive event held in the Food Bank warehouse in which corporate teams vie against one another. The Give-Back Olympics were held Thursday May 19 and Friday, May 20 with 10 corporate teams competing: Bunge, Capital One Bank, Kraft Foods, MBIA, MediaVest. PepsiCo, Pernod Ricard USA, Regeneron, Stop & Shop Supermarkets and Webster Bank. Once the dust settled, Stop & Shop Supermarkets emerged victorious, edging out the competition to hold onto the Golden Scoop Trophy again this year.

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