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Whole Foods to Receive Award from the Food Bank for Westchester

For donating food to the YWCA residence a few blocks away

By [Marc Ferris](#) | [Email the author](#) | June 3, 2011 [Print](#)

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Food brought into the shelter



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Plenty of food stores and supermarkets donate to the Food Bank for Westchester. Not enough to eliminate food waste entirely, but in quantities large enough to keep a steady stream of edible goods coming through their warehouse in Millwood.

For the last five years, Whole Foods Market in White Plains has been donating directly to the YWCA Residence for women on North Broadway and will be recognized for their efforts when the outlet receives the Donor Award at Food Bank's sixth Annual Hunger Heroes Awards Breakfast, which will be held on June 7 at Tappan Hill Mansion, Tarrytown.

The Donor Award, one of four awards given annually at the Hunger Heroes Awards Breakfast, recognizes the generosity of an individual or corporation in the fight against hunger in Westchester.

Volunteers from the YWCA Residence come to Whole Foods once a week to pick up perishables like bread, cheese, sandwiches and other staples. The type of food available constantly changes, as does the amount of food donated. Sometimes it's a shopping cart's worth, other times, a small truck is required.

"We didn't want to see the food be thrown away," said Doreen Nardone, marketing team leader at Whole Foods. "We reached out to local organizations to pick up our extras and the Y called immediately. They are just a few blocks away and we're committed to supporting our local community."

A senior case manager at the YWCA Residence, Juanita Dawson-Rhodes, nominated Whole Foods for the award.

"Specialty stores don't usually give to the community like this," said Jeanne Wilcox communications manager at the Food Bank for Westchester. The Food Bank serves as central repository for donated food items, which they then repackage to serve food pantries and soup kitchens in the county and beyond, she said.

At the residence, the donation has “grown to be an integral part of our services,” said Lori Stanlick, associate executive director of the YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester. “It saves us money and saves the tenants money. We’re very careful about the food we provide and avoid junk food like soda and chips. Whole Foods is definitely a higher quality and better nutritional value than we can usually provide.”

The residence consists of two connected buildings, one of which is undergoing construction. Both provide permanent supported housing to up to 193 single women over 18 years of age who make under a certain income. Half have had substance abuse issues, some have been homeless.

The food donation is distributed to individuals or used for functions, said Stanlick.

In general, the women cook for themselves. The building that remains open resembles a college dorm with seven to nine women sharing a common area divided into bedrooms. The other is akin to a rooming house, with a big kitchen, a refrigerator and a freezer, along with secure places to store cooking utensils and dry goods.

When the volunteers from the YWCA stops by Whole Foods, “they visit various departments for pickups and we’re delighted the food is being use by those who need it,” said Nardone. “We try not to throw out any food, so we do reach out to other pantries to come by if they can’t pick up on a certain day.”

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