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Peekskill Schools Partner With County Food Bank

by Art Cusano and Anita Prentice Today

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Joseph Mosey is leading a partner with the Food Bank of Westchester.

Photo credit: Anita Prentice

PEEKSKILL -- Teachers know how hard it is for children to learn when they're hungry. Short attention spans, poor test-taking skills, and absences due to illness are all side effects of hunger that lead to poor academic performance.

This summer, a large number of Peekskill school children whose families are struggling have benefitted from the welcome help of a new partner with the Peekskill City School District. Food Bank for Westchester (FBW) is a non-profit organization dedicated to hunger relief for all Westchester families in need. With generous donations of time, funds and food from Westchester-area companies and individuals, FBW feeds many hungry neighbors. This summer marks the first time that the organization is partnering with the Peekskill Schools.

Through the FBW Backpack program, 50 Peekskill students attending summer school and their families have received a bag containing enough food for three to four family meals over a weekend. According to FBW, weekends are times of greater food insecurity. Along with the food, families also receive recipes and nutrition information. The program is coordinated by social worker Alicia McCorvey and Joseph Mosey, the assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

"Food for Westchester has been just great to work with and we really appreciate their help," Mosey said. "The foods that are donated are well-packaged and nutritious and the program is very well-organized. We are exploring the possibility of expanding the program in the fall."

For further information on the Food Bank for Westchester, visit their website, www.foodbankforwestchester.org. For further information on the Peekskill/FBW partnership contact Joseph Mosey at (914)737-3300 ext.328.

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