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## Castelli Looks to Raise Hunger Awareness Locally

by Bob Dumas 09/25/11

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Perry Lopez of ShopRite, left, and Assemblyman Castelli

Photo credit: Courtesy of Assemblyman Robert Castelli

Assemblyman Robert Castelli (R, C – Goldens Bridge) of the 89th Assembly District, which includes Pound Ridge and Lewisboro, attended the “Help Bag Hunger” event at ShopRite in Bedford Hills last week in an effort to raise money and awareness for hunger in Westchester County.

September is National Hunger Action Month. ShopRite Partners in Caring Program, ShopRite’s year-round, community-based hunger fighting charity, oversaw the Help Bag Hunger event.

“Westchester has a tremendous resource in its food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens, which are here to serve the neediest and most vulnerable in our society,” Castelli said. “Helping raise awareness for these vital programs is the least we as elected officials can do.”

Throughout the day, cashiers collected donations for the ShopRite Partners in Caring Fund to help fill the shelves of community food banks. Since the inception of the ShopRite Partners in Caring Program in 1999, more than \$24 million has been donated to 1,700 hunger relief agencies in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Delaware, and Maryland.

“ShopRite’s continued commitment to this cause and raising awareness for hunger is laudable,” Castelli said. “With their assistance, we will continue to raise awareness of the issue of hunger in our community, and garner much needed assistance for organizations ranging from the Food Bank of Westchester to the Montrose Veteran’s Food Pantry.”

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Castelli noted that last year alone, organizations in Westchester distributed over six million pounds of food to hungry children, veterans, seniors and their families

"We must continue to raise needed funds to help fight hunger in Westchester," he said.

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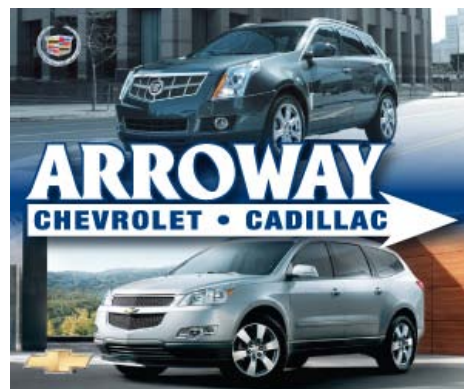
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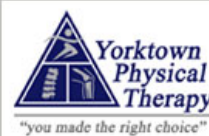
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