



NEWSLETTER

80 Sharon Road
P.O. Box 705
Lakeville, CT 06039
860-435-9886

www.TheCornerFoodPantry.org

(Formerly OWL's Kitchen)

The Corner Food Pantry

Summer 2015

Departure of a Valued Volunteer

Republican-American 3/25/2015

by Ruth Epstein

Reprinted with permission

SALISBURY — There is no doubt that Joan Groves was an integral part of The Corner Food Pantry. That much was echoed all during a gathering in her honor.

Groves has moved from Salisbury to be closer to her family, and with her departure goes nearly 20 years of service to the pantry, formerly called OWL's Kitchen.

"She practically ran the operation single-handedly," said Sarah Polhemus, one of the more than 20 people who came to bid Groves farewell.

In leading the brief ceremony along with Sylvia Durning, Rosemary Farnsworth spoke of her pleasure at having the opportunity to work with Groves. "She is responsible, reliable, efficient and has a lot of common sense." And then with a smile, Farnsworth added, "Joan has the unique ability to make a molehill out of mountain. Thank you Joan. You made my presidency easier."

Groves was then presented a citation from the Connecticut General Assembly, which was introduced by state Rep. Roberta B. Willis, D-Salisbury. The docu-

ment spoke of her unwavering commitment to the pantry. "Your tenacious effort to do the best for those in need has resulted in the improved nourishment of those in your community. Equally important is that your compassion and sense of humor have lifted their spirits during difficult times. Your caring for the whole person has immeasurably benefited the lives of countless people."



Groves told of how she'd miss having to worry about securing toilet paper and cheese (popular items at the pantry), but mostly she'll miss all the people she's met over the years. "This is a wonderful community to live in." Barbara Pogue also presented her with several gifts having an owl motif.

The pantry is open every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and every other Friday from 5 to 6 p.m. A totally volunteer initiative, it serves

individuals and families in the tristate region, providing ingredients for nearly 10,000 meals each month. On average during 2014, the pantry provided food items to 57 households per week, an increase of 10 percent over the previous year. Households are based on four members. They are given enough food for three meals a week for each household member.

Carole Dmytryshak, who maintains the books for the organization, said funds come from an annual appeal, as well as donations of food and money from community members throughout the year. School classes and local churches make contributions, as do children who request that food or money be given to the pantry instead of bringing gifts to birthday parties. Containers to place food donations are at certain sites around town. With some of the money raised, school supplies are provided to local children.

Food is ordered and delivered by LaBonne's Market. Purchases are also made from the Connecticut Food Bank. The pantry is at 80 Sharon Road in Lakeville.

For information call, 860-435-9886
or visit

www.TheCornerFoodPantry.org.

THAT MANY?

“THERE CANNOT POSSIBLY BE THAT MANY HUNGRY FAMILIES IN OUR AREA” The Board of Directors of The Corner Food Pantry hears that comment often. The many volunteers who selflessly work at the Pantry and the Board members know the real truth. There is, on the surface, great wealth and bounty here, and certainly the beautiful green hills and valleys attract well-to-do visitors from all over the world.

There are, however, people living in our area who don't have enough funds to provide adequate food for their families. Some are elderly, living on fixed incomes, and suffering with the higher cost of food and other basic human needs. Others are faced with the burden of unexpected medical bills or a debilitating illness. Despite working multiple jobs, low-wage workers struggle to manage rents, travel costs, and higher food prices. Health care workers, office workers, as well as seasonal workers and tradesmen have had increasing difficulty making ends meet. The loss of work combined with the increase in the price of food has devastated many families in our area.

The Board Members of The Corner Food Pantry know that many of the people who spend weekends or summers here are very generous and donate to lots of worthy causes. With this newsletter, we hope to inform you about the very real needs right here in this area and perhaps you will be encouraged to help us continue with our mission to provide meals for three days each week to every person in the area who needs food.



IDEA: If you would like to donate food to The Corner Food Pantry check your cupboards at home for Food about to expire and donate it **BEFORE** it expires.



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Corner Food Pantry and its predecessor OWL's Kitchen have been providing quality food to families in need for over 23 years. The organization's goal is to provide nutritious, healthful food in a friendly safe environment. A wholly volunteer organization based in Lakeville, Connecticut, the food pantry serves individuals and families in the tri-state region.

The Pantry is open each week to individuals and families from the tri-state area.

- Food is available to all
- Clients receive three days of food for each family member
- Family size determines the amount
- Clients select from a variety of foods

The Corner Food Pantry is located at 80 Sharon Road in Lakeville next to St. Mary's Church and Rectory. Parking is available in the St. Mary's parking lot across Wells Hill Road.

WHAT FOODS ARE MOST NEEDED AT THE CORNER FOOD PANTRY?

UNEXPIRED non-perishable items that are most appreciated are:

Fruit Juices, Coffee, Sugar, Cake Mixes, Canned Fruit (in light syrup) Soup, Dry Cereal, Canned Baked Beans, Macaroni and Cheese, Canned Meats and Fish, Condiments and Toothpaste.

Non-perishable items may be dropped off at The Corner Food Pantry any Friday between 9:00 am and 11:00 am or left at any of the baskets around the area in churches, banks and stores.

THE GENEROSITY OF FRIENDS

What does it take to keep The Corner Food Pantry in operation? The generosity of friends! All of those involved in the operation of The Corner Food Pantry know that it takes many hands and great effort and support to fulfill the mission to feed hungry people. We estimate that, in the first six months of 2015, we have distributed over 57,000 pounds of food.

Among the many groups that sponsor Food Drives for us are:

- Area schools such as Salisbury Central School, Sharon Center School, The Hotchkiss School, The Salisbury School, Indian Mountain School and Berkshire School.
- Local churches including St. Mary's, The Lakeville United Methodist Church, the Congregational Church of Salisbury, St. John's Church, Trinity Church, All Saints of America, and the Unitarian Fellowship.
- Civic groups such as the Salisbury Rotary Club, Future Farmers of America at HVRHS, the Artisans Group, the HousaTonics, the Chamber of Commerce, local scout troops; the Cornwall Woman's Group.
- Businesses including LaBonne's Markets, Salisbury Bank & Trust, The Auto Shop, National Iron Bank, The Millerton Movie House, and Harney Teas.

- Local farms, including Ridgway Farm through support from Share the Bounty, the Hotchkiss School farm, and many private growers.
- Organizations in the area including the Archdiocese of Hartford, The Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut.

We may have missed mentioning some organizations but we are very grateful for all of the help we receive. Other necessary and helpful support comes from many generous individual donors, including children who ask for donations as their birthday gifts, as well as dedicated volunteers who work countless hours each week.

Volunteers at the Pantry work every Friday morning to unpack and shelve boxes, cans and jars of food to stock the shelves for the weekend distribution to our clients. Clients come to the Pantry on every other Friday evening and every Saturday morning where they are greeted by friendly volunteers who distribute the food and ensure that each person's dignity is honored and that all are treated fairly.

Volunteers also help with picking up food from area Food Drives and farms, unloading holiday turkeys, doing repairs to the building, meeting the Connecticut Food Bank delivery and unloading and storing the delivered boxes of food.

A thousand thanks to all and three cheers for our fantastic community.



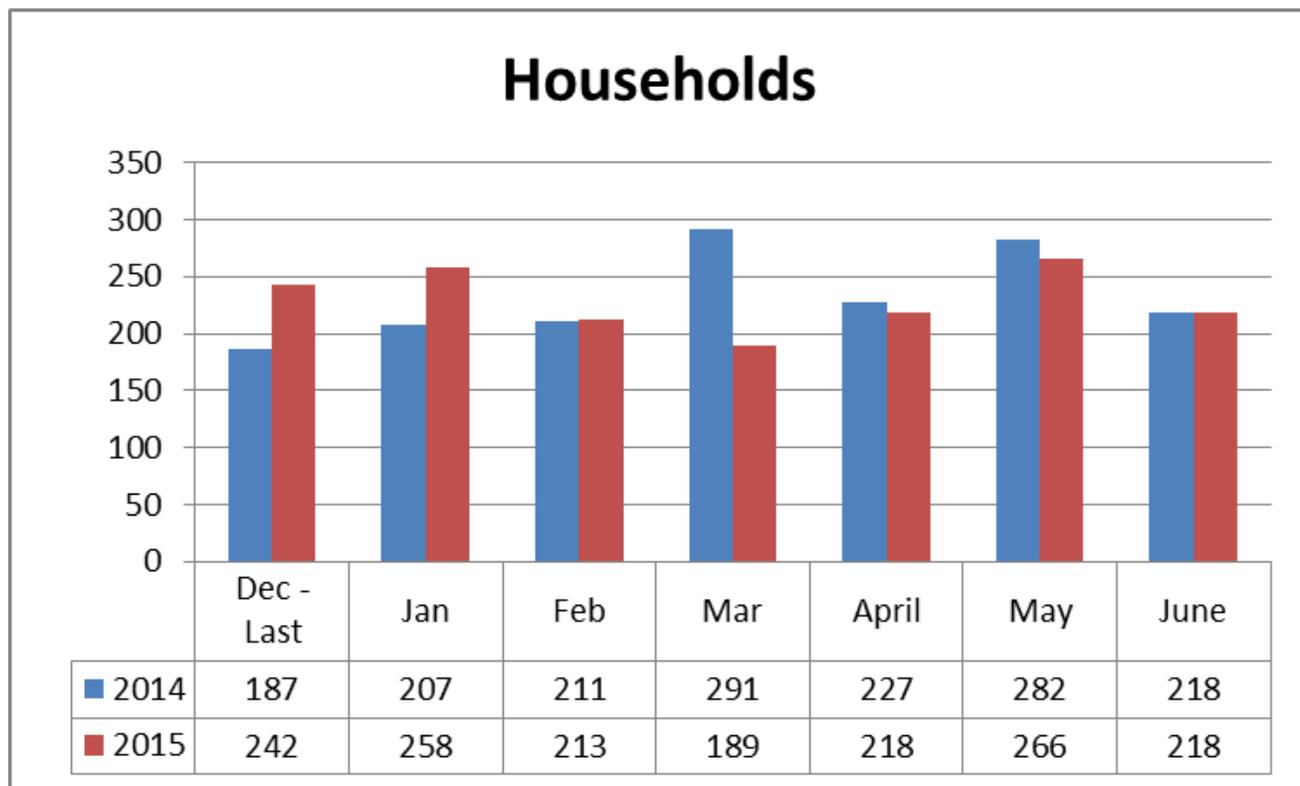
THE CORNER FOOD PANTRY'S BACK-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAM

In August of each year our local schools send out a grade-level supply list to students for the coming school year. The cost of supplies ranges from approximately \$15.00 for a Kindergarten student to more than \$40.00 for a seventh or eighth grader. Many parents who are clients at The Corner Food Pantry find it a challenge to pay for the required supplies.

To respond to the need, The Corner Food Pantry launched a program in 2009 to provide some of the required school supplies to families in need. In the first year of the program we provided the necessary supplies to 10 children at Salisbury Central School and approximately 50 children from other area schools. In 2014 we provided school supplies to 146 students in the area.

*Please check the expiration dates on your food donations.
We do not distribute food that has expired.*

The Corner Food Pantry



We track the number of households coming to the pantry each weekend; they are referred to as “Household Visits”. Some households come to the Pantry nearly every weekend while others less frequently. It is not surprising in these tough economic times that there has been a steady increase in the number of Household Visits to The Corner Food Pantry. The number of Household Visits in 2015 was at the same level as 2014 with new clients coming while others no longer needed our help.

Another statistic that we track, Food\$/HH Visit, is simply the cost of the food we purchase divided by the number of Household Visits over the period. In addition to the food purchased, we also distribute the food donations received from individuals and organizations. The table below shows that in 2014 the typical household received \$28.95 worth of food per visit while in 2015 the cost to us was \$30.85. The increase of 7% is due to rising food costs.

Comparable Period - December Through May			
Food\$/HH Visit	\$28.95	\$ 30.85	\$ 1.90

For the last six months we estimate that we provided food for 47,547 meals, which equates to approximately 57,056 pounds of food distributed.

HOW CAN YOU HELP THE CORNER FOOD PANTRY?

The Corner Food Pantry is funded through the generous donations of people like you and churches and businesses in the surrounding communities and also through grants. We are not affiliated with any political or religious group. **The organization has a tax exempt status** and donations are tax deductible. Donations can be made payable to:

The Corner Food Pantry
PO Box 705
Lakeville, CT 06039

As generous as friends of the pantry are, there is usually a decline in donated food during the summer months. The need, however, remains steady. Please consider buying a few extra items on your next trip to the grocery store. You can drop them in one of the donation baskets that can be found at many local businesses and churches or bring it to the pantry when we're open.



The Corner Food Pantry's ROVING REPORTER asked some of our clients, "What is most important to you about the Pantry?"

Mother of family of four: "The fresh vegetables and meat, and the nice people."

Multi-generational family of six: "The kindness of the staff."

Head-of-Household of five: "The amount of food we are given and the choices of food on the porch (donated food)."

Mother of family of five: "How well organized everything is, and the good choices we have. And you nice ladies!"

THE CORNER FOOD PANTRY is on the Web! Check us out at

www.thecornerfoodpantry.org

You can find our address, the hours of operation, photos of our Board members and the Pantry, foods we need, and more on our website.



Like us on Facebook! And ask your friends to like us too!

www.facebook.com/thecornerfoodpantry

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