



# NEWSLETTER

80 Sharon Road  
P.O. Box 705  
Lakeville, CT 06039  
860 435 9886  
[www.TheCornerFoodPantry.org](http://www.TheCornerFoodPantry.org)

**Fall 2020**

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU FROM THE CORNER PANTRY

### OUR ORGANIZATION

The Corner Food Pantry is a non-denominational charity offering one of the most basic human needs — nutritious food to people in need. All of our funding comes from private sources — our friends, neighbors, local organizations, foundations, churches and schools. Our administrative expenses remain low because we are an all-volunteer organization, so we can spend the private donations we receive to provide food for the hungry. And this year has posed the additional challenges of dealing with the COVID crisis (see our article on how the Pantry is responding).

### OUR COMMUNITY

We have accomplished this thanks to the generosity of the individuals and organizations who have donated funds and food. We certainly could not operate as economically without the generosity of the Archdiocese of Hartford and St. Martin of Tours (St Mary's Church) for the use of the Pantry space. Most of all, though, our mission is fulfilled because of the tireless efforts of the many volunteers who give hours of their time.

Volunteers at the Pantry work every Friday morning to unpack boxes and stock shelves for the weekend distribution. Clients can come to the Pantry on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning to pick up food. We do our best to ensure that each person's dignity is honored and that all are treated fairly.

Volunteers also help by 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. We have a more detailed article about our volunteer program in this newsletter.

### OUR THANKS

Among the many groups that sponsor food drives and donate funds for the Corner Food Pantry are:

Area schools such as Salisbury Central School, Sharon Center School, The Hotchkiss School, Salisbury School, Indian Mountain School and Berkshire School.

Local churches including St. Martin of Tours (St. Mary's Church), the Lakeville United Methodist Church, the Congregational Church of Salisbury, St. John's Church, Trinity Church, All Saints of America, the Unitarian Fellowship, Christ Church, Cornwall Congregational and the Sharon Congregational Church.

*continued on next page*

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE COVID CRISIS

We are very pleased to have successfully remained open without interruption throughout the COVID crisis. Due to the tireless commitment and passion of our volunteers and staff, together with support from our generous donors, we have been able to meet the surge in demand for our services while implementing and maintaining strict adherence to suggested safety protocols.

We immediately instituted new practices according to the guidelines set forth by the CDC at the start of the pandemic in March 2020. These included shifting our distributions from in-person to a contactless arrangement, mandating the use of masks for clients, staff and volunteers, setting up hand sanitizing stations, and requiring 6 feet of distance between people. We have also distributed free reusable cloth masks to clients and staff as needed.

We will continue to adapt to the CDC's COVID-19 changing guidelines to keep everyone as safe as possible while serving our community to the best of our ability, now and into the future.

*The heart of the volunteer is not measured in size, but by the depth of the commitment to make a difference in the lives of others. DeAnn Hollis*

## Heartfelt Thank You ...

Civic groups such as the Salisbury Rotary Club, FFA at HVRHS, the Artisans Group, the Housatonics, the Tri-State Chamber of Commerce, local scout troops, the CT Porsche Club, Sunday in the Country food drive and the Millerton Duplicate Bridge Group.

Businesses including The White Hart, where Annie, Paul and Alex went above and beyond and to whom we are so grateful; when the pandemic severely disrupted food supplies, they stepped up to source and package protein for us every week for many months. We would have been sunk without them! We also thank Salisbury Bank and Trust, The Interlaken and Lime Rock Park, all incredibly generous, as are the wonderful staff and management of LaBonne's Market. Many local businesses have been so supportive of our efforts.

Local farms, including Berkshire Grown, Share the Bounty program, Ellie Youngblood and her crew at Fairfield Farm (Hotchkiss) for the amazing produce they deliver to us throughout the growing season, the Salisbury Community Garden, Gordon Ridgeway, Friendly Hands Food Bank in Torrington for produce boxes through their Farmers to Families program, and the many private growers who supply us with much appreciated fresh produce and fruits.

Organizations in the area that are stalwart supporters include the Archdiocese of Hartford, The Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation, The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut, The Bates Family Trust and the Donna and Ben Rosen Foundation.

If we have inadvertently missed mentioning some organizations, we apologize for the lack of acknowledgement. Please know we are very grateful for all of the help we receive. We especially appreciate all of our many generous individual donors, including the children who ask for donations to the Corner Food Pantry as their birthday gifts.

### Board of Directors

Nancy Bayersdorfer	Amanda Halle
Parker Boal	Sue Keim
Jane Capecelatro	Holly Kempner
Betsy Clark	Kathy Mera
Allison Gray	Isabel Sloane
Michele Haab	Mary Taylor, <i>President</i>

## In Memoriam

It is not just our clients who receive sustenance from The Corner Food Pantry. Our volunteers also receive lasting gifts of camaraderie and friendship from working with some of the nicest people. Fridays were always particularly special because of two stalwart volunteers, John Borden and Barbara Nichols.

The Pantry was blessed to be one of the many local organizations that **John Borden** supported. John had a wonderful sense of humor and was ready to work as soon as he walked through the door. And work he did, especially doing a lot of the heavy lifting. The only time he balked at a task (and made us laugh about it) was in the winter when he had to bring things to and from the garage freezers, which John referred to as "going to Siberia."

John was always kind, quick with a funny story and generous with invitations to his holiday parties. John liked people and people liked him back. We so appreciate all his help at the Pantry, but even more, we are so grateful for his friendship.



**Barbara Nichols** was a long-time Pantry volunteer and board member beginning when we were known as OWLS Kitchen. Barbara became a permanent resident of Salisbury in 1995 at the same time the Pantry hours expanded to serve clients on

Friday nights as well as Saturday. When asked to help, she stepped right up and usually worked out on the porch, where families choose additional "specialty" items and fresh produce. Barbara particularly enjoyed the interaction with families during the summer months when there were lots of fresh vegetables to offer.

Barbara was a dedicated board member. And because she also volunteered on the Salisbury Beautification Committee, Barbara brought her love of gardening and her expertise to the Pantry, helping create a welcoming atmosphere for clients and volunteers. We miss her green thumb and her loyal support.

# A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

Without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers, we could not possibly fulfill our mission or meet the recent high demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteering at the Corner Food Pantry is a simple way to give back to our community. We asked what it means to volunteer at the Corner Food Pantry; here are a few responses:

*"It makes my life fuller to volunteer at the Food Pantry. It's a joy to be able to help others who are in need! Thanks for the opportunity to aid the community directly, and spend time with nice people while doing so."* DS

*"I volunteer to meet and support people from the community, especially during Covid-19. At the same time, helping with registration gives me the opportunity to communicate with clients who are Spanish speakers, just like me. And this is a joy!"* RLP

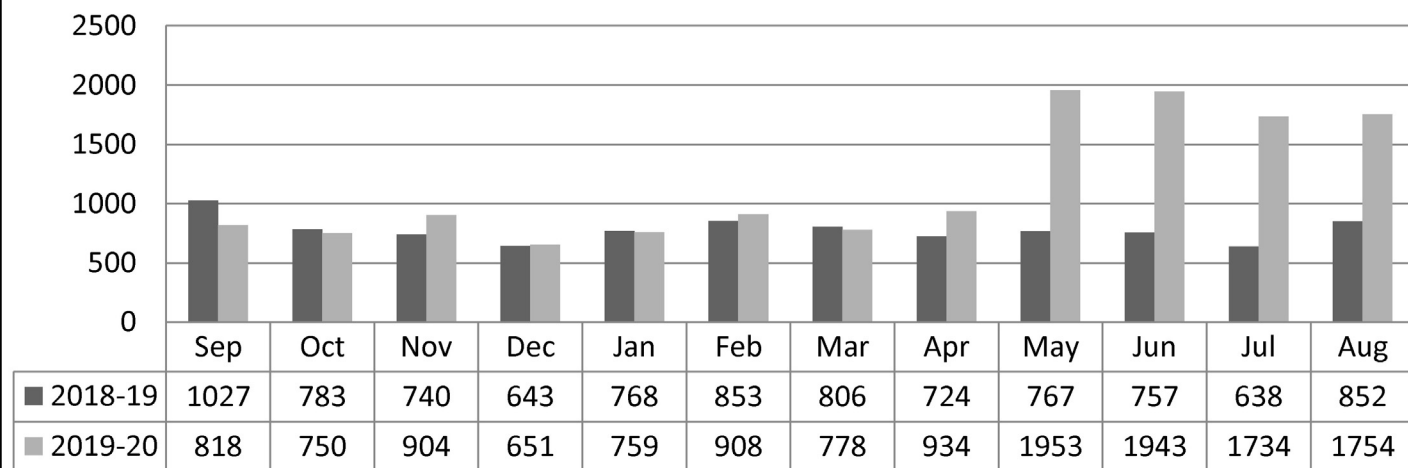
*"I volunteer with the Food Pantry in an effort to build a strong, meaningful bond with my community. In a small community, especially during these uncertain times, it's essential to help uplift one another in any way we can. I'm happy to be a part of that."* HM

*"It's been one of the most wonderful experience working at the Pantry the last five years. It's amazing how a couple of hours sorting groceries can make such a difference in your week and in your life."* MBH

We are always looking for volunteers! If you are interested, please call us at 860 435 9886. We have a range of volunteer opportunities. **Please note, some of these activities require heaving lifting and bending.**

- Pre-pack shelf-stable food for distribution, Friday 9AM-1PM
- Pre-pack fresh vegetables, Friday 3-4PM
- Distribute food to clients, Friday 4-6PM and Saturday 8:30-10AM. **Beginning November 6, Friday distribution will be 2:30-4PM**
- Provide administrative assistance such as mailing, data entry, filing
- Develop content to post on our website, serve as our public relations liaison writing press releases, and provide information to our local town newsletter
- Dispose of empty boxes at the Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station
- Deliver food to home-bound clients, Saturday 10AM-noon (dependent upon need)
- Help pick up/unload food deliveries and organize food at the Pantry (times vary)

## Individual Visits - Last 24 months



As the chart illustrates, activity at the Pantry has risen sharply since the onset of the pandemic. Since April the number of individuals being served each month has more than doubled to roughly 1845 per month versus 825 for the prior 6 months.

Since the beginning of the year, the Pantry has served almost 3200 Households which includes 12,100 individuals.

This represents more than 108,000 meals and over 130,000 pounds of food!



The Corner Food Pantry  
80 Sharon Road  
P.O. Box 705  
Lakeville, CT 06039  
Address Service Requested



Pictured left to right: Michele Haab, Deborah Rathbun, Jane Capece, Allison Gray, Kathy Mera.