

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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WOODBIDGE **HAVE-A-HEART** FOOD DRIVE WRAPS-UP WITH 3RD GRADE CLASS AT ROBERT MASCENIK SCHOOL #26 CONTRIBUTING 300+ LBS OF FOOD

2017 ~ **HAVE-A-HEART FOOD DRIVE** ~ 2017
\$32,297.00 in Donations & 26,500 Lbs. of Food

Mayor McCormac Cites Support of Township Corporations, Businesses,
Restaurant & Hospitality Industry, School Students & Residents in
Successful Effort to Re-Supply Food Pantries



WOODBIDGE – Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that the 2017 Woodbridge Township **Have-A-Heart** food drive collected more than 26,500 pounds of non-perishable food and netted over \$32,200.00 in cash donations to support the efforts of local food pantries in their work to aid needy families throughout Woodbridge Township. More than 100 Township corporations, businesses, retail outlets, school students, charitable organizations and residents contributed to the 2017 **Have-A-Heart** food drive.

“The **Have-A-Heart** food drive is one of the most important programs that we as a community participate in each January and February. I am proud to be part of the effort to extend the generosity of the holiday season and to replenish and restock Township food banks,” Mayor McCormac said. “Hunger knows no season and no boundary. It’s crucial that we work every day – not just during the holiday season – to collect food as we work to help provide the necessities of life to our neighbors and families who might otherwise go hungry.”

According to Mayor McCormac, the annual **Have-A-Heart** food drive, so named because it runs through Valentine's Day, is launched each January by the Woodbridge Department of Health & Human Services and the We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank Foundation. The **Have-A-Heart** food drive, established in 1995, works with area food pantries, churches, parishes, schools and community and senior organizations to replenish and restock food pantries. This year, the **Have-A-Heart** food drive issued a "2/14" challenge to Township corporate offices, businesses, retail outlets, food stores, restaurants and hospitality industry, charitable organizations and residents to donate 214 pounds of food or contribute \$214 to assist food pantries continue their work in providing food and meals to less fortunate residents and the homeless.

Peter Barcellona, Chairman of We Feed Woodbridge reported that more than 300 pounds of non-perishable food (canned goods, pre-package and boxed foods, baby food, paper products, etc.) was collected and sorted for donation by the Third Grade students from Robert Mascenik School #26 in Iselin. The student food drive program was coordinated by School #26 Principal Judith Martino and 3rd Grade teachers Melissa Finnerty, Leslie Cardello, and Dolores Boyd.

More than 100 Township corporations, businesses, retail outlets, school students, charitable organizations and residents contributed to the 2017 **Have-A-Heart** food drive. Significant contributors include:

- Colonia Business Community (CBC) \$6,000.00 and 700 lbs.
- Liberty Property Trust \$5,214.00
- Sansone Foundation \$5,000.00
- Wegmans of Woodbridge \$500.00 and 1,200 lbs.
- Woodbridge ShopRite 2,200 lbs.
- Goya Foods Corporation 1,976 lbs.
- Northfield Bank \$2,140.00
- Middlesex Water Company \$435.00 and 400 lbs.
- Bishop George Ahr High School 2,300 lbs.
- St. John Vianney School – Student Council 1,200 lbs.
- Woodbridge Community Center 800 lbs.
- St. Anthony of Padua Church 700 lbs.

The food items will be distributed to needy Woodbridge Township families and individuals through the following food pantries:

- Heavens Helper's Pantry, 343 Pearl Street, Woodbridge
- First Presbyterian Church, 20 Middlesex Avenue, Iselin
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge
- Metro Park Assembly of God, 48 Berkeley Blvd., Iselin
- First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge
- St. James Roman Catholic Church, 174 Grove Street, Woodbridge
- First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue
- First Congregational Church-Women of Faith, Barron Avenue, Woodbridge
- St. Cecelia Roman Catholic Church, 45 Wilus Way, Iselin
- Elijah's Bread Food Pantry, Ridgedale and E. Prospect Avenues, Woodbridge
- First Baptist Church of Woodbridge, 130 Sewaren Avenue, Sewaren

According to a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report, more than 14 million American families – 11.9 percent of all U.S. households – are at some time during the year uncertain of, or unable to purchase, enough food for their family. The 11 Woodbridge Township food banks serve approximately 700 needy families each month.

The year-round effort to keep Woodbridge Township food banks stocked continues with food donations being part of every election and Township-sponsored event: The Mayor's Summer Concert Series, Music on Main Street & Woodbridge Wednesday concerts, the Barron Arts Center summer programs and concerts, and other Township-sponsored public events. Non-perishable foods can be dropped off any weekday at the Woodbridge Township Public Health Center, 2 George Frederick Plaza, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Additional food drop-off locations are at Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street, the Woodbridge Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza, or at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street.

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