

## CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRIES ARE STILL DESPERATE AND SO ARE THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

### **We need your help more than ever!**

Jesus says to us (John 21:15) “If you love me...feed my sheep”. The Gospel writer Matthew (Chapter 25) reminds us that will be asked if we fed the hungry. Hunger locally is a reality today. In Matthew 7:7 Jesus says “Ask and you will receive.” Last year we asked you to help us feed the hungry and you did. We thank you most sincerely. We need to ask your help again this year.

The number of people provided food assistance in 2013 exceeded our 2012 numbers which far exceeded 2011. With pantries located in all three counties that comprise the Diocese of Paterson our Catholic Charities pantries provided food to 39,000 people this year. Can you imagine a child of yours going to bed hungry? Well among the thousands who received food from our pantries in 2013 there were 8,400 children. Without the help of our food donors these children would have gone to bed hungry time and again.

Our pantries continue to meet the demand without any additional government funding. Appeals for help have been generously answered by parishes, schools, community groups, individuals, some of our vendors, and our own employees. 84 (up from 64 last year) schools and parishes collect food for us. Most collect food for us on a monthly basis; some weekly. Even with increased donations we are just keeping even with the need. On any day of the week in any of our pantries the shelves are seldom more than half full, and we are always low on one or more staples.

While we are hopeful the need will not grow as dramatically in 2014 we expect the need for food will increase again this year. So, again we are looking for additional food donations. We welcome any food donations especially recurring ones. If you are already supporting our pantries and feel you can increase them please call any of the pantry contacts listed at the end of this article. If you are not currently supporting our food pantry and would like to, again please call any of those listed. Below is a suggested list of items we have prepared for those interested in conducting food drives.

## FOOD DRIVE ITEMS

Cash	Supermarket gift cards	Canned meats
Canned fish	Canned soups	Canned stews
Canned fruit	Canned vegetables	Canned spaghetti sauce
Canned spaghetti	Various pasta products	Boxed macaroni and cheese
Hot and cold cereals	Powered milk	Parmalat
Peanut butter	Jelly	Canned juices
Healthy snack foods	Crackers	Manual can openers
Canned milk	Powdered drink mix	Instant cocoa
Boxed rice products	Baby formula	Diapers
Hygiene products	Granola bars	Breakfast bars

## WHERE TO GIVE FOOD FOR CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRIES

Catholic Family & Community Services  
Partnership for Social Services Family Center  
48 Wyker Road, Franklin, NJ 07416  
Sr. Thomasina Gebhard • (973) 827-4702

Hispanic Information Center  
186 Gregory Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055  
Delia Rosario • (973) 779-7022

Father English Community Center  
435 Main Street, Paterson, NJ 07501  
Carlos Roldan • (973) 881-0128

Hope House  
19-21 Belmont Avenue, Dover, NJ 07802  
Karina Calabuig • (973) 361-5555, x158