



WEST SIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

A Program of the West Side Center for Community Life, Inc.

Through a supermarket style food pantry, WSCAH alleviates hunger, creates a culture that promotes self-reliance, and works for change.

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WSCAH

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Letter from Doreen Wohl Executive Director

Dear Friends:

The West Side Campaign Against Hunger turns 30 in 2009. In 1979, the pantry provided 863 people with food for 7,767 meals. In FY 2009, we will provide 88,063 people with food for 792,567 meals. We have also grown to house a social service staff of five, numerous partner organizations and an array of free programs designed to help our customers past emergency toward self-sufficiency.

In these difficult times, we have a lot to be proud of. I hope you will join us in the 30th anniversary celebrations you will read about in this newsletter.

With regards,

Doreen Wohl



How We Help

Jason, a 46-year-old, single, disabled man, has been a WSCAH customer since 2005. He suffers from mental illness. In a recent visit to the social service office, he reported suicidal thoughts to Maria, his WSCAH counselor. She discovered that Jason had been out of therapy for a year. He had also stopped taking medication.

Jason struggled to explain his needs, and Maria worked patiently to assess his condition and build a plan. She scheduled an appointment for Jason at an outpatient mental health facility that helps homeless and low income people with mental health problems. At first Jason was reluctant to accept help but he made a verbal contract with Maria to call 911 if he felt he might hurt himself or others. Over the next two months, Maria continued working with Jason until he was accepted for outpatient treatment. Now he is back on medication and his mental health has greatly improved. He continues to visit WSCAH monthly. Occasionally he entertains the waiting area with his jazz piano playing.

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To make a donation, please go to our website www.wscah.org



We launch our 30th anniversary year at our Annual Volunteer Recognition Day on Sunday, July 19, 2009, when we salute the customer volunteers who help run the pantry and make WSCAH a special place. In FY 2009 customer volunteers worked an amazing 18,448 hours. Many of our friends and elected officials will join us on that day.

On November 10, WSCAH marks its 30th anniversary with a benefit dinner prepared by our customer chefs. We will honor some of our Heroes of the Fight Against Hunger: Members of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun; The Church of St. Paul & St. Andrew; David Saltzman and the Robin Hood Foundation; and Public Advocate Betsy Gotbaum. We guarantee you a fun, unusual and delicious evening. E-mail Stewart Desmond at sdesmond@wscah.com for ticket information.

Stay tuned for more reports on the 30th anniversary and how you can participate.

Promotion at WSCAH



Congratulations to Maria Pacheco, just promoted to WSCAH's Social Work Supervisor. Maria says, "My goal is to support the counselors in providing excellent service to our customers. I also plan to have my Master of Social Work license by fall so we can host social work students to absorb our agency values and later put what they learn here to work as professional social workers."

How We Help

Alicia, a single mother, lives in a rental apartment in Manhattan with her two children aged ten and fifteen. She turned to WSCAH when her Medicaid benefits stopped as a result of going off public assistance. Because Alicia has a thyroid condition and one of her children requires mental health care, the family still needed Medicaid's help. A WSCAH counselor helped Alicia reapply to Medicaid through our onsite enroller. Within a month, her family was re-approved for Medicaid. Thanks to the intervention of WSCAH, Alicia now has the medical care her family needs.

WSCAH Thanks Our Many Supporters

Religious Organizations

The Brick Presbyterian Church
Broadway United Church of Christ
Christ & St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Church of St Paul & St Andrew, United Methodist
Church World Service, Crop Walk
Columbia Community Service Inc.
Congregation Ansche Chesed
Congregation B'nai Jeshurun
Congregation Habonim
Congregation Rodeph Sholom
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church
Fourth Universalist Society
Global Ministries, United Methodist Church
Jewish Theological Seminary
Presbytery of New York
Rutgers Presbyterian Church
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
Second Presbyterian Church
West End Collegiate Church
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West Park Presbyterian Church
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America's Second Harvest/
The Starr Foundation
Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc.
The Corella & Bertram F. Bonner Foundation
Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger
The Robin Hood Foundation
Taproot Foundation
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Lucky's Real Tomatoes
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Yes We Can

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