

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



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ANNUAL "HAVE A HEART" FOOD DRIVE WRAPS-UP WITH MORE THAN 8,000 POUNDS OF FOOD DONATED TO TOWNSHIP PANTRIES

Mayor McCormac Cites Support of 4th Grade Students from Robert Mascenik School #26... Ross Street School #11... Menlo Park School #19... Pennsylvania Avenue School #27 and Port Reading School #9



WOODBIDGE – Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac today announced that the 4th Grade students from Robert Mascenik School # 26 in Iselin, along with the 4th Grade classes from Ross Street School #11, Menlo Park School #19, Pennsylvania Avenue School #27 and Port Reading School #9 collected more than 5,000 pounds of food during the 2008 “Have a Heart – Valentine’s Day” food drive.

“The annual ‘Have a Heart’ food drive is one of the most important programs that our Elementary school students participate in each January. I’m proud to recognize the 4th Grade students from each of the Elementary schools as well as their teachers, parents, families and friends and to offer everyone a hearty job-well-done,” Mayor McCormac said.

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 Committee.” 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.

Joining Mayor McCormac at Robert Mascenik School #26 were Fourth Ward Councilman Jim Major, Peter Barcellona, Chairman of the “We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank Committee.” and School 26 Principal Beatrice Moskowitz. “Hunger knows no season and no boundary. It’s crucial that we work every day – not just during the holiday season – to collect food and to help provide the necessities of life to our neighbors and families who might otherwise go hungry. The 4th graders from School 26 and every other school should be proud of their accomplishment,” said Councilman Major.

According to Barcellona, the 2008 “Have a Heart” food drive and the recent “Cast a Can When You Cast Your Vote” election day food drive netted more than 8,000 pounds of non-perishable food (canned goods, pre-package and boxed foods, baby food, paper products, etc.). The School #26 food drive was coordinated by 4th Grade teacher/advisor Kristie Manente, Michele Schwab and Lynn Brassler.

The teachers and students turn food drive logistics into classroom curriculum exercises with students creating posters, flyers, graphs and other learning aids that apply lesson plans and problem-solving methods to the project. Additionally, students coordinate the collection, sorting and packaging of the food. The food items are distributed to needy Woodbridge Township families and individuals through the following food pantries:

- Heavens Helper’s Pantry, 343 Pearl Street, Woodbridge (formerly Congregation Adath Israel), Kathy Hoffman, Coordinator @ 732-742-8942;
- First Presbyterian Church, 20 Middlesex Avenue, Iselin, Gloria Haesler, Coordinator @ 732-283-1188;
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge, Val and Hertha Blatz, Coordinators @ 732-634-7422;
- Metro Park Assembly of God, 48 Berkeley Blvd., Iselin, Sandra Burton, Coordinator @ 732-310-8758;
- First Presbyterian Church, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, George and Robin Goodrich, Coordinator @ 732-634-1024;
- St. James Roman Catholic Church, 174 Grove Street, Woodbridge, Peggy Catalano, Coordinator @ 732-636-4310;
- First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Carolyn and Jake Stockl, Coordinators @ 732-634-1631;
- First Congregational Church-Women of Faith, Barron Avenue, Woodbridge, Faith Longstreet, Coordinator @ 732-634-0582;
- St. Cecelia Roman Catholic Church, 45 Wilus Way, Iselin @ 732-283-0150, and
- Elijah’s Bread Food Pantry, Ridgedale and E. Prospect Avenues, Woodbridge @ 732-636-7727.

The ongoing effort to keep Woodbridge Township food banks stocked throughout the year continues with food donations being part of various Township-sponsored events such as the Mayor’s Summer Concert Series, the Barron Arts Center Holiday Concert, the election day “Cast a Can When You Cast Your Vote” food drive and at other public events. Additionally, 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., Woodbridge Town Hall, 1 Main Street, the Woodbridge Library, 1 George Frederick Plaza, or at the Woodbridge Community Center, 600 Main Street..

Additional information about the “Have a Heart” food drive and the “We Feed Woodbridge” Committee is available by contacting the Woodbridge Township Department of Health & Human Services at 732-855-0600 x5034.



The Fourth Grade class from Robert Mascenik School #26 presented more than 5,000 pounds of donated food to Woodbridge Township food pantries. 4th grade student Johnny Evangelou explains to Mayor John E. McCormac (center right) teacher Kristie Manente (far right), Councilman Jim Major (center left) and Principal Beatrice Moskowitz (far left) how the entire 4th Grade class collected the food.

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