

NEWS

TOWNSHIP OF WOODBRIDGE



MAYOR JOHN E. McCORMAC

◆ 1 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Jan. 12, 2023

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Mayor's Office of Communications

Mayor John E. McCormac, Woodbridge Business Community & Township Food Pantries Kick-Off 2023 **"Have-A-Heart"** Food Drive

Food Drive Challenges Township Corporate Offices, Businesses, Food Service Industry, Schools, Community Associations & Residents to Donate 214 Lbs. of Non-Perishable Food or \$214.00 to Aid Food Pantries



Woodbridge Township Announces 2023 **Have-A-Heart** Food Drive. **Have-A-Heart** Sponsors: (L/R): Holly Church-Doyle, Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce; Angie Tsirkas, Northfield Bank; Robert Dato, Sansone Charitable Foundation; Peter Barcellona, We Feed Woodbridge; Mayor John E. McCormac; Municipal Councilwoman Debbie Meehan and Municipal Councilwoman Sharon McAuliffe.

Woodbridge – Mayor John E. McCormac announced the kick-off of the 2023 **"Have-A-Heart"** Food Drive Challenge - sponsored by the Sansone Charitable Foundation, Woodbridge Metro Chamber of Commerce, Northfield Bank, Columbia Bank, Wegman's, and the Corner News Publication.

The **"Have-A-Heart"** food drive challenges Township businesses, retail food service outlets, hospitality industry, corporate businesses and offices, community associations, schools and residents to donate 214 pounds of food or contribute \$214.00 to assist Woodbridge food pantries continue their work providing food and meals to less fortunate residents and the homeless. The 2023 **"Have-A-Heart"** food drive ends on Valentine's Day – Tues., Feb. 14, (hence the 2/14 challenge.)

"The need for food in our community has more than doubled since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit. Our food pantries went from serving 600 families a month to now well over 1,400 families. Nobody should ever have to go to bed hungry, so we make it our mission in Woodbridge Township to provide people with food and other necessities. Our residents and businesses continuously prove that they are willing to step up and collect food and monetary donations for those in need. The Have-A-Heart 214 Challenge has grown and now involves all facets of our community, making Woodbridge Township truly, the Best Town Around." said Mayor McCormac.

Since 1995, the annual "Have-A-Heart" food drive - launched each January under the sponsorship of the Woodbridge Department of Health & Human Services and the We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank Committee - has become the most important community program undertaken throughout the entire year. The "Have-A-Heart" food drive is coordinated by Peter Barcellona, Chairman of the We Feed Woodbridge Food Bank Committee. All you need to do is give Peter a call at 732-855-0600 x5034 and tell him where and when to pick up a donation – 214 pounds of food or \$214.00 - and volunteers will come directly to your location... it's that easy! Or, you can deliver 214 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Woodbridge Township Public Health Center (2 George Frederick Plaza) or the Woodbridge Community Center (600 Main Street) anytime between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM Monday thru Friday. Financial contributions (payable to We Feed Woodbridge) can also be dropped-off at the Health Center or mailed directly to the Office of the Mayor, Woodbridge Municipal Building, One Maine Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095 or to the Woodbridge Department of Health & Human Services, c/o We Feed Woodbridge, 2 George Frederick Plaza, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

Last year (2022), Woodbridge Township businesses, community associations, charitable foundations, educational and school organizations and residents have truly made a difference by donating more than \$63,100.00 and 20,000 pounds of food to the Have-A-Heart food drive. However, the need for donations continues to grow as families impacted by the pandemic continues to mount.

We Feed Woodbridge Food Pantries:

St. Anthony's of Padua Roman Catholic Church, Port Reading - 732-634-1403
Heavens Helper's Pantry, 343 Pearl Street, Woodbridge - 732-742-8942
First Presbyterian Church of Iselin, 1295 Oak Tree Road, Iselin - 732-283-1188
Trinity Episcopal Church, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge - 732-634-7422
Trinity Episcopal Church Soup Kitchen, Trinity Lane, Woodbridge - 732-634-7422
Evangel Church, 48 Berkeley Blvd., Iselin – 732-283-3440
First Presbyterian Church of Woodbridge, 600 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge - 732-634-1024
St. James Roman Catholic Church, 174 Grove Street, Woodbridge - 732-636-4310
First Presbyterian Church of Avenel, 621 E. Woodbridge Avenue, Avenel - 732-634-1631
First Congregational Church, Barron Ave., Woodbridge - 732-634-0582
St. Cecelia Roman Catholic Church, 45 Wilus Way, Iselin - 732-283-0150
Fellowship Bible Church Food Pantry, 121 East Prospect Avenue, Woodbridge - 732-636-7727

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