

No Matter What's for Dinner, Family Comes First

You help keep families fed all year long

If you ask Maria what her favorite meal to cook is, she'll tell you that she loves to make foods that are traditional to her family: rice, beans, and chicken. But if you ask her 7-year-old son, Kyle, what his favorite food is that his mom makes?

"Pasta!"

But no matter what's for dinner, Kyle loves his time with his parents and 2-year-old sister around the table. "I like eating with my family," he says.

Unfortunately, prices for everything from food to gasoline to everyday household necessities have skyrocketed during the past few years, and they've never come back down. That means Maria's paycheck from her housekeeping work doesn't stretch as far as it used to.

"I have a job, but that's not enough," she says. "Everything now is expensive."

During the school year, Kyle is able to get free breakfast and lunch at school, but during the summer, he loses access to the food his growing body needs. So Maria takes her children to a food distribution at their elementary school when she needs help putting food on the table. "It helps so much," she says gratefully.




Kyle just hopes his mom got some pasta!



Kyle loves to help his mom when they visit the school pantry.

When you give now, you help keep kids and their families nourished and full during school breaks and all year long. 🍌

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these stories!***

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LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Friend,

Fall is upon us, and of course that means the beginning of a new school year. Although that makes many people think of new notebooks, pencils, and schedules, *our* thoughts turn to nutrition, lunches, and energy.

Kids need every possible advantage to properly focus on their learning, and if proper food and nutrition aren't available, school can be a challenge for them and their families. We're grateful they have access to free or reduced-price meals at school, and super grateful for you and your generosity, which allows us to ensure that students have access to healthy food in their homes.

In this issue, you'll read stories from two neighbors — Maria and Anwar — who count on school food pantries to provide their families with proper nutrition, despite their long work hours. There's also a recap of our annual Golden Scoop competition, supported by 10 of Westchester's most giving companies. Finally, I'm so happy to share with you a very special opportunity I had recently with our partners at Westchester Community College.

Thank you for your amazing support! Westchester County kids and families couldn't do it without you!

Karen C. Erren

Karen C. Erren
President & CEO

Nurturing Minds and Bodies

Proudly partnering with area schools to nourish our community

Feeding Westchester's partnership with local colleges — we have 16 school pantries, including 5 at local colleges — is incredibly important to the community and to the students it benefits. Many college students are balancing a class schedule, homework, and part-time jobs while struggling to keep up with the rising cost of groceries. Some students also find there isn't enough time to visit the grocery store, purchase nutritious food, and prepare meals. Because of support from friends like you, we can supply food to on-campus pantries and provide access to our Mobile Food Pantry.

But our support extends beyond providing food, as shown when our President and CEO, Karen C. Erren, delivered the commencement address for Westchester Community College's (WCC) School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

Karen inspired the Class of 2024 with a message rooted in the college's motto: "WCC's seal contains the phrase *Sapere Aude* — Dare to Know — reflecting a commitment to knowledge and learning as keys that unlock the future. Underneath it all is the wisdom at the foundation of this wonderful institution — Dare to Know."

Karen's speech underscores Feeding Westchester's commitment to nurturing not just bodies, but minds and spirits as well. By supporting students throughout their academic journey, we're helping to build a stronger, more resilient community. **Your continued support enables us to expand these vital partnerships and make a lasting impact on the lives of students in Westchester County.** 🍌



"Life will present adversity and challenges, but it will also hand you beauty and unexpected gifts."



Anwar and his sons are excited to get home and start cooking the food they received at the school pantry!

“All of This Helps”

Anwar is grateful for his local distribution — and you!

Anwar loves cooking for his family of six! Unfortunately, a few months ago, Anwar lost his job at the gas station where he worked. Now he drives for Uber when he’s able to, but the work isn’t always reliable. High gas and food prices make it even harder to make ends meet like he used to — especially with six people to feed.

Thankfully, Anwar was able to visit a recent food distribution at his children’s elementary school, along with his sons, 5-year-old Muhammad and 7-year-old Ibrahim. He was especially excited to learn that the pantry was distributing meat, which can be difficult to access on a limited budget.

Supporters like you make these school pantries possible, and that helps neighbors like Anwar!

“Food is really expensive right now,” Anwar says. “All of this helps.”

Thank you for helping neighbors and their families with your continued gifts! You make so many of our programs — including school pantries — possible. 🍌

Feeding Westchester serves Westchester County, providing food to a hunger-relief network of nearly 300 partners and programs. With a mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger, we source and distribute good, nutritious food and other resources to wherever they are needed most.

In fiscal year 2024, we provided more than 23 million pounds of food — which was equivalent to more than 19 million meals — through soup kitchens, food pantries, schools, shelters, residential programs, and mobile distributions.

That served an average of more than 228,000 neighbor visits — including visits from children, seniors, veterans, and hardworking families — every month. We are a 4-star Charity Navigator organization, committed to creating a community where all people have access to the food they need today, and the fundamental resources to build a better tomorrow.

Feeding Westchester is located at 200 Clearbrook Road, Elmsford, NY 10523. For more information, visit www.FeedingWestchester.org. 3

SEE YOUR IMPACT

JULY 2023–JUNE 2024



Neighbor visits,
monthly average

228,000



Child visits, monthly
average through
pantries, deliveries,
and school programs

80,000



Pounds of fresh
produce distributed

8.4 MILLION



Pounds of food
distributed

23.2 MILLION



Number of meals
distributed

19.4 MILLION



Retail recovery
(pounds recovered)

4.5 MILLION

The Golden Scoop

When local companies fight against hunger, everyone wins!

Imagine a playing field with laughter, friendly trash talk, and the sound of boxes being packed at lightning speed. That's what you'd have heard if you'd stopped by Feeding Westchester's Golden Scoop Corporate Packing Competition on June 7!



Ten local companies went head-to-head in a friendly competition against hunger. By the end of the day, these dedicated competitors had packed 3,000 boxes of food for Feeding Westchester's Nourishing Seniors program!

"It's a day for doing good and having fun," says Jenine Kelly, our VP of Development, Marketing, and Communications.

The competition was fierce. Stop & Shop snagged the Golden Scoop trophy back from last year's champs, employees of Captain Lawrence Brewing Co., who were gracious hosts and came in a close second. Meanwhile, PKF O'Connor Davies won the Top Fundraising Team award.

And the best part is, these teams packed 24,000 pounds of food during their battle. That's 12 tons of nourishing food that will provide 18,000 meals for local seniors in need! They also raised more than \$53,000 to keep our work going strong.

We are so grateful to our local community and all participating businesses for their help supporting local seniors facing hunger. They proved that you can have fun and make a real difference in your community all at once. Now that's what we call a win-win. 🍌

Many employers offer matching gift programs to encourage their employees to support charitable causes such as hunger relief. An employer may match your gift or volunteer time dollar for dollar — and sometimes by much more. Check out if your employer will match your gift at FeedingWestchester.org/matchinggifts

Fight Hunger

Through a Donor-Advised Fund

Donor-Advised Funds (DAF) allow donors to receive an immediate tax deduction, then recommend donations to nonprofits like Feeding Westchester over time. **For questions, contact Martine Campoli, Director of Individual Giving, at mcampoli@feedingwestchester.org or 914.398.6094.** Learn more FeedingWestchester.org/daf.