



Shining Brightly, Bringing Hope:

Community Support Surpasses 5 million pounds of food and \$1M in donations in a 12 month period

Hunger is hitting closer to home for many of our neighbors because of the recession, financial crisis, and long-term unemployment. Between July 2008 and June 2009, the Worcester County Food Bank and its network of 178 partner agencies provided food assistance to 93,000 different people; a 13 percent increase from the year prior.

As the Food Bank's Executive Director Jean McMurray observed, "each and every day the Food Bank receives phone calls and visits from people looking for help and people offering their help." Although these are challenging times with more people turning to us and our network of partner agencies for help, the community's support of the Food Bank has exceeded all previous levels.

For the first time in Food Bank history, two milestones were achieved during the month of June: an all time distribution record of 5.2 million pounds of food and over \$1 million in donations from individuals for a 12-month period.

You and the greater community of individuals, businesses, foundations, schools, civic and faith organizations, as well as local, state, and federal government are the only reason why the Food Bank is able to respond quickly and effectively to the ongoing need.

Here are the year's highlights of your tremendous support:

- ◆ Over 9,000 individual donors made gifts ranging from \$1.00 to more than \$10,000 totaling over \$1 million!
- ◆ 361 local food donors, including 17 farms, whose remarkable donations of non-perishable food and fresh fruits and vegetables, contributed to the overall health of 93,000 people, more than a third of whom are children.
- ◆ Hundreds of dedicated and energetic groups and individuals volunteered over 5,000 hours of service! Their commitment helps us provide safe and quality food to the community on a daily basis.
- ◆ Over 200 concerned citizens contacted their elected officials through www.hungeractioncenter.org to advocate for food and nutrition assistance programs such as food stamps that provide important (continued on page 4)

Inspired Cook for Many is Feeding a Hunger to Do More

It started with a love of farming and cooking with fresh food; then a keen desire to share the harvest...



Ted Hudson; father, cook, farmer, and volunteer extraordinaire!

Friends of the Food Bank community come to us with many gifts to share, and volunteer Ted Hudson is no exception. Laid off in 2004, he sought us out because of a keen interest in ending hunger, and has become a valuable friend to us in sorting, cleaning and cooking in our facilities ever since, even after going back to work.

For five months, Ted and staff member, William

Highlands Jr., produced over 1200 meals for the local Kids Cafés and other partner agencies—crucial help when we needed it most. His efforts with the latest national survey, *Hunger In America 2009*, gave him an opportunity to see what his work helps us to accomplish, and to meet people at our partner agencies. He traveled far and wide with us to sit with people, ask questions, listen, and take each story to heart. It gave him "a chance to understand how real the need is...and to see the true face of hunger."

Father of four, Ted takes great pleasure in his varied volunteer work at the Community Harvest Project in North Grafton and at Whitinsville Christian Academy, where his son is a student. Ted thoughtfully shares that, "Volunteering at the Food Bank is a great way to contribute to the community...meet new people from all walks of life with similar concerns and hopes for those in need. If you are having a marginal day, I can't think of a better boost than spending a few hours at WCFB." *Our heartfelt gratitude, Ted, for all the work you do and the bounty it brings to so many!*

Initiatives, Interest and Inspiration: *We Couldn't Do It Without YOU!*



Worcester Local First's campaign sponsored by Fallon Community Health Plan and Worcester Magazine; *Think Local, Thank Local* raised 2373 pounds of food and \$3000 in 49 locations around Worcester! L-R; Paul Fontaine of Liberty Movers, Lois Maitland Paire and Jean McMurray of WCFB, and Cliff Wilson of Worcester Local First.



Richard Pellegrino (left), Terminal Manager for **Cargill Corn Milling N. A.**, stands with Dir. of Programs & Operations **Lois Maitland Paire** to bring hope to many by naming WCFB as his division's 'charity of choice' with a corporate gift match for \$2000. Our sincere thanks for recognizing the power in partnership—we applaud your efforts as you inspire others to reach out!

Local heroes are popping up all over—business people working with their employers for impact within the local community. **Grainger** employee, **Hilary Wheeler** (right, second from left), recommended the WCFB for a \$10,000 grant from the Grainger Foundation to aid the effort to distribute more food.



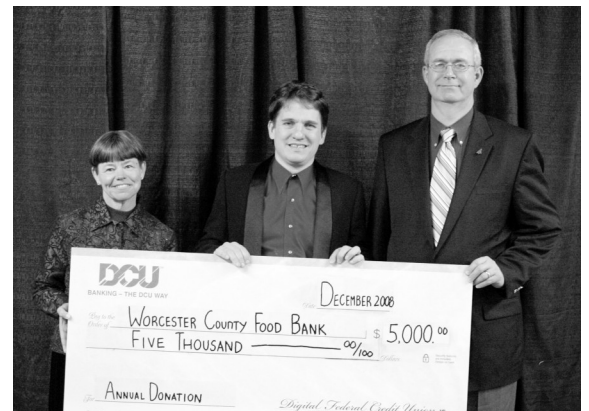
Eric Swanson and Cara Weismann (right) drop off food from **UMASS GSBS Cares** drive. Collectively, **UMASS** held 16 different food drives last year—amassing a whopping 5,367 pounds in food drive donations!



Kudos to **Hannaford Bros.** Supermarkets (above) for kicking off their 125th anniversary celebration with a corporate challenge to deliver emergency relief with a \$20,000 donation to the Food Bank! This began a \$1M effort to help people meet essential needs last winter in their five state market area.

Your Support Feeds SO Many!

Jean McMurray (below) stands with DCU President **Tim Garner** and **Boston Pops Orchestra** Conductor **Keith Lockhart** to accept a **DCU** donation at the Pops' Holiday Concert in Worcester. Our thanks for your gracious gift and chance to read 'Twas the Night Before Christmas!





Responding generously, feeding many. Foundations like **Highland Street** are helping to reduce hardship and encourage community effort by teaming up with WCFB. We received a \$50,000 grant from their Emergency Assistance Fund, created to ensure that families in need had access to critical resources and



GRANTING SUPPORT FOR SUCCESS

services last winter. The **EOS Foundation** Emergency Assistance Fund was created to provide help to local residents struggling with food and fuel costs last winter. With their donation, we purchased 86,910 pounds of locally grown, fresh produce for distribution to our partner agencies while supporting the local farming community! *That's what we call a win-win for all!*



The 16th Annual **WSRS Feed Worcester County Food Drive** (above) brought together many people of all ages from Worcester County, collecting 17,239 pounds of food and \$30,645. Thank you, WSRS and all the supporters who make this a united effort and an annual success!



Big and little, small and tall...so many have pitched in for a very successful effort in 2009. The **10th Annual WCFB Get Teed Off to Fight Hunger Golf Tournament** was great fun and brought in \$13,000 in donations! Our thanks to you for another year of fun in the sun for a great cause!

Theresa Gentile and her friends at **Applied Materials** (below with Food Bank staff), teamed up again for a phenomenal fund drive and company match to buy fresh produce during the holidays for the emergency feeding programs of WCFB. Another successful drive for Applied Materials; surpassing last year's donation for a grand total of 6,490 pounds and \$10,000. The hard working crew of Applied Materials also volunteered at the WSRS Feed Worcester County Food Drive. We really appreciate their loyalty to our mission!



SHARE OUR STRENGTH'S
TASTE OF THE NATION
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Share Our Strength's 2009 **Taste of the Nation Worcester** took place on April 27th where the area's hottest chefs served up their culinary sensations. Attendees enjoyed a marvelous evening of fine food, worldly wines, scintillating spirits, live entertainment, and an incredible silent and live auction. Last year, WCFB received \$19,000 from the event—always a fun way to try the foods from the many restaurants and food vendors of Worcester County. Thank you, *Taste* friends!

Cheerful Partner Agency Representatives (below) **Luella Wells, Marjorie Wilson & Nettie DeJarnette** take food back to their program, **John Street Baptist Church** in Worcester where they volunteer their time to provide hot meals and pantry items to meet the increased need so many agencies are seeing in Worcester County.



Fidelity Investments provided a generous donation of \$15,000 as part of their efforts to help strengthen and enable the Worcester County Food Bank to meet its mission.

Community Responds... (cont. from page 1)

resources to individuals and families.

- ◆ Through their leadership, State Legislators demonstrated a commitment to feeding local people by supporting the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program. This program funds the distribution of nutritious food equivalent to 12.5 million meals through the four Massachusetts food banks.
- ◆ Through the passage of the federal 2008 Farm Bill and 2009 Economic Stimulus Bill, our U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives demonstrated leadership and commitment to feeding hungry people in Worcester County and throughout the United States. This year, the Farm Bill provided \$250 million for food purchases through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Economic Stimulus Bill provided additional funding of \$100 million for USDA and \$100 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Your generosity has accomplished so much of which you can be proud. We are grateful to you and every community partner who supports us in their own unique way. Together, we are bringing help and hope to people for healthier and happier lives! **Thank You!**

Watch TV? Seen the Public Service Announcement? 'Meatballs' to Create Young 'Hunger Helpers' for Hunger Action Month

Sony's picture, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* is being used by Feeding America to motivate kids to fight hunger in their communities as **Hunger Helpers**, just in time for September's **Hunger Action Month**.

To learn more about ways you can be part of the local effort, contact us today!



Want More Information on Upcoming Events?

Visit Us At

www.foodbank.org

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Advocating with Passion and Vision: Sharing Cupboard's Pat Jackman Honored for Community Leadership and Diligent Efforts

And the winner is... Patricia Jackman, Coordinator for the Sharing Cupboard Food Pantry at the First Congregational Church in West Brookfield. She was awarded the **2009 Partners In A Vision: Freedom from Hunger Award**.

Each year, at our Partner Agency Conference, the

Food Bank recognizes a partner agency representative for their dedication and contributions to our shared mission and vision of feeding hungry people today while working to create hunger-free communities of tomorrow.

Pat's abilities are impressive and she demonstrates her communication and advocacy skills on multiple levels. She wears many hats well and works diligently with her fellow volunteers and community members of West Brookfield to keep resources flowing to local people.

We realize there are many people working tirelessly toward our shared vision and we salute all of you. A special congratulations to Pat Jackman—an inspiration to us all!



Pat cheerfully accepts the 2009 Partners in A Vision Award from Food Bank friends. L-R; Agency Relations Coordinator Jolene Jennings, Pat Jackman, Executive Director Jean McMurray and Director of Programs and Operations, Lois Maitland Paire.

National Study on Hunger in America; Gathering Data to Better Serve Worcester County

As a member of Feeding America's nationwide network, the Food Bank was part of Hunger In America 2009—the latest nationwide effort to gather data from charitable hunger relief organizations and their clients, and one of the most in-depth surveys of the scope of the hunger problem in America. **We thank all our agencies and volunteers for their participation**—especially those that welcomed our team to their community meal programs, shelters and pantries to conduct the 300 client surveys from February through April 2009. Special thanks to our interviewers; Ed Faron, Sally Hodgerney, Ted Hudson, Patricia Peck, Tom Sioui and WCFB staff, for easing the task. Watch for research results in the future!