October 22, 2018

Third Times A Charm!
Lifting Up Westchester Launches its Third Annual Holiday LIFT Campaign

WHITE PLAINS – Lifting Up Westchester (LUW), a nonprofit agency which provides homeless and poverty services to individuals throughout Westchester County, is preparing to launch its third annual Holiday LIFT campaign, with a Fall and Winter Clothing & Coat Giveaway kickoff event on November 3rd.

The number one question we get during the holiday season is “How do I help those in need?” said Nancy Inzinna, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager. “Holiday LIFT tries to match the community’s desire to help with the kinds of donations and volunteering we need most to ensure that our homeless and low-income neighbors can enjoy the holidays.”

From food drives to decorating LUW homeless shelters, the Holiday LIFT campaign has activities for all ages and groups. There is even a special Teen Volunteer Saturday on November 10th.

Signature holiday-themed activities include: providing 2,000 holidays meals from the LUW soup kitchen on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day, filling and delivering 500 holiday food bags, distributing pies, cookies and goodie bags, wrapping and delivering hundreds of gifts to men, women and children in need and so much more.

“It is truly remarkable to see so many community members come together to help during the holiday season,” explained Anahaita Kotval, Lifting Up Westchester Executive Director. “Each person adds their personal spin on the holidays and delights in the opportunity to share their own traditions with our neighbors in need.”

All volunteer opportunities for serving holiday meals are filled, but community members looking to get involved in this year’s Holiday LIFT campaign are able to help in a variety of other ways.
• Organize a food drive and involve your neighborhood, school, religious organization or community group. Foods needed most are turkeys, hams, instant mashed potatoes, gravy mix, stuffing, canned vegetables, canned cranberries, cake and brownie mixes.
• Donate the free turkeys or coupons for free turkeys that many grocery stores give away at Thanksgiving or Christmas.
• Donate $10-$25 grocery store gift cards for food bags given to vegetarians and families who traditionally eat something other than turkey and ham for their holiday meals.
• Bake pies and holiday cookies for donation
• Donate NEW gloves, hats and scarves for residents of the Open Arms Men’s Shelter and Samaritan House Women’s Shelter.
• Donate multi-cultural dolls, sports balls, and board games for the children in the Brighter Futures Youth Programs. Gift cards for teens are also appreciated.
• Donate wrapping paper

For specific date and timing information on ALL Holiday LIFT activities, please visit: www.liftingupwestchester.org/holidays or contact the Community Outreach Department via e-mail ninzinha@liftingupwestchester.org or phone (914) 949-3098, Ext. 9735

In addition to seeking canned goods, gift cards and volunteers, Lifting Up Westchester’s greatest need remains cash donations. Please consider donating online at www.liftingupwestchester.org.

About Lifting Up Westchester

Lifting Up Westchester (www.liftingupwestchester.org) is a 501 (c)(3) organization whose mission is to restore hope to Westchester County’s men, women and children in need by providing them with food, shelter and support- lifting them to greater self-sufficiency with dignity and respect. It is one of the largest social services agencies in Westchester County and has been fulfilling its mission since 1979 through the operation of eight community-based programs. The agency serves 3,500 men, women and children each year providing almost 100,000 meals to the hungry and 20,000 nights of shelter to the homeless.

For more information about Lifting Up Westchester, visit www.liftingupwestchester.org or contact Chris Schwartz at cswartz@liftingupwestchester.org or (914) 949-3098.

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