Sponsoring Congregations
Bedford Presbyterian Church
Bet Torah Synagogue
Iglesia Apostolica Monte de Sion
Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
Presbyterian Church of Mount Kisco
St. Francis of Assisi Church
St. Mark’s Episcopal Church
St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church
St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
Temple Sholom of Westchester
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Northern Westchester
United Methodist Church of Mount Kisco
Westchester Family Church

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
White Plains, NY Permit 1679

Location
United Methodist Church
300 East Main Street
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Contact us
914-610-5187
director@mountkiscofoodpantry.org

We offer
Home deliveries
SNAP and WIC support

Our Mission
The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry is an affiliation of faith-based congregations dedicated to providing supplemental food to underserved residents of northern Westchester. We are committed to creating a healthier and stronger community. Our volunteer efforts respect the dignity of those we serve and are an expression of the spiritual mission of our member institutions.

Some Tasty Fundraising!

Eli Lowe, teen fundraiser, is turning his passion into purpose and selling his homemade ice cream— with proceeds going to the Pantry! (See his story on page 2.)

Please send your gift to:
MKFP
P.O. Box 834
Mount Kisco, NY 10549

Please make checks payable to:
The Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry

To donate on-line:
www.mountkiscofoodpantry.org

The Food Pantry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. Your gift is tax deductible.

Yes, I want to make a tax-deductible contribution!

Name(s):
Street Address:
City/State/Zip:
Email:

Amount: $25 $50 $100 $150 $250 Other:

This is a gift in honor, memory, or support of:

Honoree’s Name:

Amount: $25 $50 $100 $150 $250 Other:

2019

2020

0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000

0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000

0 10000 20000 30000 40000 50000 60000

The Pantry Responds to Covid-19
by Julia Conley

Since the coronavirus pandemic forced economies to shut down across the U.S. in mid-March, food pantries have seen an explosion in need. By April, Gov. Cuomo reported that food bank demand in Westchester County was up 200%. Local pantries like ours depend on food banks for supply.

An Unprecedented Surge

The Pantry immediately saw a surge in client demand in mid-March, after the pandemic was declared a national emergency. We have served hungry families every week for three decades— through moments of crisis. But the pandemic created an “unprecedented” situation, according to Laura Desmarais, our Grants Committee chair. “In 2019, we served 45,000 people. We may exceed 65,000 in 2020.” Pantry President Kelley Houseman believes the pandemic may change how Westchester residents view food insecurity. “Many families never imagined they would be relying on a food pantry,” she said. “They were getting along ok and then, suddenly, were unemployed without reserves.”

Serving Our Neighbors

Responding to these challenges has required creativity and flexibility. By April, our in-person distributions were replaced temporarily with a no-contact, drive-up model, and then, a one-time distribution of ShopRite gift cards. We established partnerships with local nonprofits, working together to meet the need. Staff members trained many new volunteers to help pack groceries and assist in sorting the now huge food deliveries.

In June, the Pantry transitioned to an outdoor, no-contact, walk-up model. Volunteers equipped with masks and other safety equipment distribute meat, grains, fresh produce, eggs, and other bagged groceries to clients through their pantry windows. Clients, too, wear masks, and lines move smoothly and safely. We quadrupled the size of our home-delivery program.

Our Community Responds

Fortunately for the Pantry and its clients, the rise in demand has been met with what Desmarais calls “extraordinary support, generosity, and love coming from the community.” Houseman adds, “We were really heartened by how quickly and generously the community responded.”
Letter from the President
Kelley Housman

March came in like a lion. And never left. Our Pantry swiftly responded to the devastating impact of the coronavirus disease by ramping up operations to meet the surging needs of our vulnerable neighbors. Food insecurity increased exponentially as businesses shuttered and workers were sent home, and we quickly saw the number of households relying on our weekly assistance double.

During the ensuing months, important and vital work was initiated and continues by our selfless volunteers, our generous donors, our steadfast sponsoring congregations, our dedicated staff and board leadership, our operations team, our collaborative community partners, and even our clients, who patiently adapted as we adjusted our operation model to evolving conditions that continue to push us to address crisis levels.

I am honored to share with you in our summer newsletter how the Pantry is addressing the escalating need in this unpredictable landscape. As the only place where families can get weekly distributions in our area that includes Armonk, Bedford, Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, and Pleasantville, we are here to help for as long as help is needed, but we can’t do it alone. We need you.

On behalf of families who need you but cannot thank you in person, I thank you for your continuous and generous support.

Some Very Tasty Fundraising!

Some kids (and parents) wondered what they were going to do when the pandemic shut down schools and camps for the summer. Eli Lowe, an Armonk resident and rising sophomore at the King School in Stamford, CT, turned passion into purpose and decided to sell his homemade ice cream with proceeds going to the Pantry.

“Ice cream makes people smile and be happy,” says Lowe, who has loved to cook since the third grade. “I could explore a passion of mine and help people at the same time.”

Eli, a member of sponsoring congregation Beth Torah where he first learned about food insecurity packing bags for the Pantry, is leading an enthusiastic team. His friend Norman Bucciero designed his colorful logo. EJ’s Homemade Ice Cream is a 501(c)(3).

He orders containers from the Internet, stores his pints at home, and finds inspiration for flavors based on what is available seasonally.

“Ice cream makes people smile and be happy!”

“Single mom had too many peaches, so I thought, why not make peach ice cream?” Then he wanted it to be even better, so he added candied homemade pecans and named the flavor Peachy Times.

The two most popular flavors have been Mint Chip and Cookie Jar.

“Everyone of this writing, he has sold close to 200 pints of his eleven flavors through the Instagram account: @ejshomemadeicecream and donated close to $1,000 to the Pantry for much-needed food.

“It’s been a great experience” he says. “I’d like to make more flavors and sell even more because the need isn’t going away.”

“Eli’s ongoing donation has come during an economic shock that was unexpected and unprecedented,” says Kelley Housman, president of the Pantry board.

“We need efforts like Eli’s! It’s inspiring that he has such sense of commitment.”

“We need you! Our Home Delivery program grew from 20 to 90+ households.

If you have Amazon Prime you can help stock the Pantry! Add us to your delivery addresses, complete your order, and Amazon will send these much-needed food items directly to us!

Here’s how it works. To order items, use this link to go to our amazonsmile page: https://www.amazon.com/gpregistry/wishlist/1LQ8BD2ENG623/?ref=cm_wish_view

Add us to your delivery addresses, complete your order, and Amazon does the rest. It’s that easy! Thank you!

Our Pantry in Action!

Hundreds of volunteers helped respond to the pandemic crisis and our 38% increase in clients.

We serve residents of Mount Kisco as well as Armonk, Bedford, Bedford Hills, Chappaqua, Cross River, Croton Falls, Goldens Bridge, Hawthorne, Katonah, Millwood, North Salem, Pleasantville, Pound Ridge, Purdys, Sleepy Hollow, South Salem, Thornwood, Valhalla, Waccabuc, and Yorktont Heights.

Our Home Delivery program grew from 20 to 90+ households.