



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017

"Spring Awakening"



"To Whom Much Is Given, Much Is Required" As the new Volunteer Administrator for Dutchess Outreach, this quote resonates within me. I was introduced into volunteerism in high school. Since that time, I have devoted my time, energy and resources to those in need. On Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017, with large shoes to fill, I began this new journey. Volunteerism continues to be the center and core of my being. Dutchess Outreach is where volunteers can spend their time, energy and resources lifting others. I am proud to be a part of the team. Spring is here! As the weather warms, the snow melts and the flowers begin to blossom, let our generous and warm hearts melt away the hardships of others and allow them to blossom. Here's to making a difference!

~Nyhisha T. Gibbs, Volunteer Administrator

Meet Dawn Kozlowski and Heather Behuniak

Have you met the volunteers who manage the Children's Clothes Closet? **Dawn** started volunteering in 2002 and **Heather** started in 2010. Both ladies began because they "wanted to give back to the community". Now, the two of them willingly give of their time to ensure the clothes closet program runs smoothly. Through the years, they have helped to develop procedures to train other volunteers. They sort and organize bag after bag of donations. Every Thursday, they open the closet and help families in need of clothing



for their children. In addition, each November, Dawn and Heather help sort and distribute the thousands of coats

collected through the Susan DeKeukelaere Memorial Coat Drive. Dawn remarked, "Nothing makes me happier than to have a child come in, to be able to give them a bag full of clothes and see the smile on their face. Heather agrees saying that she loves "bringing joy to the children". A bonus from volunteering with Dutchess Outreach is their new friendship.

Moving On

It doesn't seem possible that I have worked with Dutchess Outreach for fifteen years.

Time really does fly by. It was with both sadness and joy that I decided to retire in December. Sadness, for I will miss working with you, our volunteers. It has been a privilege getting to know each of you. Joy, for I will now be able to pursue my other interests. I have already signed up for an exercise class. and of course will be able to spend more time with my grandchildren.

Thank you for not only making my job easier but also more enjoyable. Hopefully, I will see you when I am out and about.

~Carol

Spotlight! ~ Danny Leonce

In 2016, Danny Leonce was introduced to Dutchess Outreach through Gateway Industries. He volunteers in our Food Pantry and has consistently provided his contagious smile, energetic nature and helping hands ever since.

In the Food Pantry, Danny unloads food deliveries, stocks shelves, fills bags to distribute and sorts food donations.

We appreciate and laud Danny for all of his contributions to Dutchess Outreach. Thanks Danny!



Note from the Director

It is my pleasure, for those of you who don't already, to let you know we have a new member of our team in the critical role of Volunteer Administrator, Nyhisha Gibbs. Nyhisha brings a broad range of education and experience to her new position. She has served as a volunteer herself in many capacities often in a leadership role and has collaborated with numerous groups, from farmers to PTAs, to improve the quality of life in her community. I am sure she will do great things for all those serving and served by Dutchess Outreach, Please join me in a big welcome for Nyhisha!

~**Brian Riddell, Executive Director**

Poughkeepsie High School Basketball Team "Slam Dunk"



Poughkeepsie HS Basketball team

On December 28, 2016, several members of the Poughkeepsie High Basketball Team prepared and served an evening meal in our Lunch Box. In serving over 150 people, they slam dunked and scored the winning point for the Dutchess Outreach team. Kudos PHS Basketball team!

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Special thanks to Anderson School, Greystone Programs, ARC of Dutchess, Abilities First, Cardinal Hayes, Community Based Services, DDSO, Taconic Resources, Gateway Industries, Greystone Industries and the Wellness Center for all of their assistance at Dutchess Outreach in our Food Pantry, Lunch Box, Children's Clothes Closet and with our Spring Food Appeal mailing!



Volunteers from Greystone Programs

Recognizing the Buffalo Soldiers

At one time the Buffalo Soldiers were a Cavalry serving their country. Today, our Buffalo Soldiers ride motorcycles instead of horses and serve our community and those in need. They started by helping with another group and soon took on their own night. On every third Wednesday, you will find them in our Lunch Box helping to prepare, set-up and serve the Evening meal.



Boy Scout Troop 275 volunteered with the Buffalo Soldiers

Condolences

Mary Solomon was Volunteer Administrator with Dutchess Outreach and then a Lunch Box Volunteer. She passed away on February 18, 2017. Mary's life was one of public service and volunteerism that spanned decades. She was a PTA member and later a Board member and Board President of the Poughkeepsie School District. Mary was director of the Vassar Temple religious school, was on the Board of the City of Poughkeepsie Housing Authority, and served on the Poughkeepsie Common Counsel for four terms. She traveled for the Red Cross to disaster sites and was a first responder on 9/11. Mary was a very special lady who cared deeply for others. We will miss her.



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