



*"Where flowers bloom
so does hope."
~Lady Bird Johnson*



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER Spring 2020

"Spring Wishes"



"That is one good thing about this world ... There are always sure to be more Springs."- L.M. Montgomery. Amid the growing concerns surrounding COVID-19, precautionary measures are in place for everyone! My *Spring Wish* is for all of us to be safe, to be well & to be fed. As we abide by the NYS on PAUSE restrictions, many of us have the means to acquire the necessary items to afford us some security & comfort. My *Spring Wish* is for all of us to remember those without means & those unable to acquire the necessary items to make them feel secure & comfortable. During this pandemic, please remember that those in need, like us, desire to feel safe, want to stay well and need to be fed.

Nyhisha T. Gibbs, Manager of Volunteers

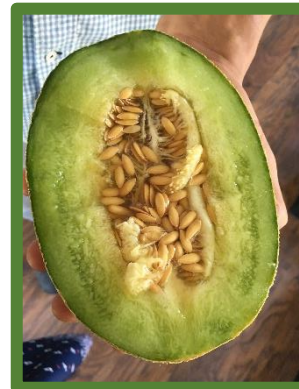
A Wish Come True: Meet Omar De la Cruz



Dutchess Outreach is eternally grateful for the dedicated support from Mr. Omar De la Cruz. Since June 2019, Omar, with his confident stride, cheerful smile, cooperative spirit and overall pleasant demeanor, has accrued over

500 volunteer hours! Omar has volunteered in several of Dutchess Outreach's programs, including our Urban Farm, Mobile Market, Farm Stand, Lunch Box and Food Pantry. Mr. De la Cruz completed various assigned tasks including seeding and planting, unloading & sorting large food donations, serving food and cleaning tables and chairs. Notably, Mr. De la Cruz is bilingual and has assisted greatly at our Farm Stand with translating for our Spanish speaking patrons! *"Gracias, Senor Omar De la Cruz, por tu ayuda!"*

Beautiful Fruitful Wishes



Wow, what a beautiful fruit! This was one of the honeydew melons straight from our garden, sampled and sold at last year's Mobile Fresh Market. Honeydew is a good source of Vitamin C and we love that! Our Farmer, Mr. Justin Offerman, received a

donation of the honey dew plants last summer and thought it would be a great addition to our market fare. This year, we will be changing our format a little, with the mobile produce trailer parked for more days and longer periods at our home base, the Family Partnership Center on North Hamilton in Poughkeepsie. Justin is now loading up on seeds and plants of popular items to grow and sell at the market this season, especially collard greens, cabbage and cucumbers. Different varieties of peppers and tomatoes are also back by popular demand, especially for the seniors we serve who have expressed a particular joy over the strange and unusual shape of the heirloom tomatoes we offer. **Atticus Lanigan, Administrative Assistant**

thank you!



Thank you to the our **Food Pantry** volunteers!

Note from the Director

Spring wishes come easy for me this year. I wish that all of you volunteering on site, those making sandwiches, you collecting and delivering donations, they that are making and distributing facemasks and all of our friends, old and new, who are generously supporting what we have been able to do, and all those you love, stay safe and keep healthy during these unprecedented times. Together, we have accomplished nothing short of a miracle! ~**Brian Riddell, Executive Director**

Wish List Thank You...



To the 100+ **Coat Sort volunteers** who sorted over 7000 coats & winter essentials! You all were incredible!



Thank you to the **youth volunteers**, courtesy of our Board President, Mrs. Ann St. Germain, who volunteered in our Lunch Box alongside the **Buffalo Soldiers**.

Thank you to our gracious **CROP Walk donors and volunteers** who represented us well!



Thank you to **Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Xi Mu Chapter** (SUNY New Paltz) for the generous donations of over 200 PB&J sandwiches.



To **Beekman Elementary School** for the generous Halloween Costume donation.

****If you would like to receive this Newsletter via email, please email nyhisha@dutchessoutreach.org****

www.dutchessoutreach.org 845-454-3792

Wish List Thank You cont'd...



To **Salon Dae**, for including a blurb in your October 2019 Newsletter informing your clients about how to support our annual Susan DeKeukelaere Memorial Coat Drive!

To **Rhinebeck Bank's Commercial Lending Team**, courtesy of Mrs. Brandi Rider, AVP Commercial Lending, for donating over 250 personal hygiene items for those in need!



Thank you to **Hannafords Supermarkets** for their reusable bag donation.

Thank you to **Boy Scout of America Troop 275 volunteers** who assisted in our Lunch Box!



Thank you to the **Exchange Club of Southern Dutchess, NY** for donated coats to benefit those in need!

Thank you to the **DCRCofC Project Forward student volunteers** for your assistance in our Lunch Box.



Special Thank You

Special thank you to our courageous volunteers who, amid this crisis, remained committed to us since early March 2020. Thank you to our Dutchess Outreach Board and to everyone who has volunteered or donated meals, snacks, beverages, non-perishable food, personal hygiene items. We appreciate your generosity!