

## VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

### *“New Beginnings”*

## January 2022

*“Trust the magic!”* The COVID-19 Pandemic transformed our lives, our communities and our world! It forced us into a new reality, a new beginning. At Dutchess Outreach, we are grateful for this new beginning as it gave us an opportunity to effectively implement changes to our service model, an opportunity to embrace restoring dignity and an opportunity to encourage and uplift those we serve. From our Dutchess Outreach Leadership, our Staff, our Board members and our volunteers, we are the new beginnings everyday for each one of our Guests! Bit by bit, our actions and attitudes transform our lives, our communities and our world! Here’s to new beginnings! **Nyhissha T. Gibbs, Manager of Volunteers**

### Thank You Vassar Temple!

Annually, Vassar Temple’s Yom Kippur Food Drive is a huge success. We are thankful to Vassar Temple and volunteer, Ron Rosen (pictured), for coordinating this Drive to benefit Dutchess Outreach.



### “Bags of Hope”

We are thankful to the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers from St. Denis Church for donating their “Bags of Hope” to Dutchess Outreach.



*thank you!*

### Susan DeKeukelaere Memorial Coat Drive 2021

We are extremely thankful to Guardian Self Storage, iHeartMedia, Mary Dynes (our Volunteer Coat Drive Manager), the Rotary Club (Walden, New York), Rhinebeck Bank, Raymour & Flanigan, Red Cap Cleaners and all of our AMAZING volunteers. We collected over 5,000 coats and over 4,000 lightweight items, hats, scarves, gloves, etc... We are thankful to everyone who donated and contributed to the Drive. Throughout October-December 2021, we held several pop-up coat



distributions. We filled orders placed by educational or religious institutions as well as several organizational and agency requests for coats! What an incredible collaboration! #KeepingOurNeighborsWarm

## Our Executive Director's voice

A heartfelt 'thank-you' to all of our volunteers who have joined us in what has been a transformational year. In the **Pantry**, we have transitioned into a self-choice model, resulting in more than a 100% increase in people coming to our program to get the food they want and need. The **Lunch Box** has increased the number of meals from about 250 each day, to nearly 400 during our busiest times. The **Farm and Mobile Market** have had our most successful year yet! The **Children's Clothing Closet** and **Acts of Kindness** programs, both fueled exclusively by volunteers, have been bustling. Absolutely none of these amazing accomplishments would have been possible without our volunteers. We are thankful beyond words for all that you continue to do to support our community through the work happening at Dutchess Outreach. With heartfelt gratitude, **Renee S. Fillette**

Many Thanks!

## Fleet Feet

Thank you, **Fleet Feet** for your generous sneaker donations. Thank you, Debbie St. Onge for securing these donations for us and distributing them! You all are incredible!



Thank you **Arthur S. May Elementary School** for your exceptional donation of personal hygiene items, laundry detergent, socks, hats and gloves. Thank you for filling our buckets and shelves! You all are "A-May"zing!

**\*\*The Newsletter will be sent electronically unless subscribers state otherwise.**

[www.dutchessoutreach.org](http://www.dutchessoutreach.org) 845-454-3792

## Our Board Members in Action

Thank you to our Dutchess Outreach Board members for volunteering in many of our program areas. We recognize that many are present and many are behind the scenes.



Thank you for all you do seen and unseen. Your efforts are noticed and we thank you!

## Dutchess Community College DUE

Thank you to our **DCC DUE** volunteers! We appreciate your willingness to volunteer in many of our program areas!



## Our INCREDIBLE Food Pantry Volunteers

We are blessed to have an amazing core team of Food Pantry volunteers. Daily they greet our customers, stock our shelves, pack bags to be delivered and some actually make the deliveries. We are grateful to these dedicated volunteers.



## Thank You Over and Over Again!

Special thanks to all of our courageous volunteers who, amid this continuing crisis, remained committed to us since early March 2020. We hope that we tell you as often as we see or speak to you! We are indeed grateful!