



**TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE  
OFFICE OF THE SUPERVISOR**  
Rebecca Edwards

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Town of Poughkeepsie Launches Twice-Monthly Food Pantry**

**The Town, partnering with Dutchess Outreach, distributed 7,000 lbs of food to the community this morning from Town Hall**

CONTACT:

Rebecca Edwards, Town of Poughkeepsie Supervisor  
Town Hall, 1 Overocker Road, Poughkeepsie NY 12603  
[pressinquiries@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov](mailto:pressinquiries@townofpoughkeepsie-ny.gov)  
(845) 485-3607  
(845) 705-3778 (cell)

Recognizing the urgent need to address food insecurity in the community, the Town of Poughkeepsie held its first food pantry early this morning at Town Hall (1 Overocker Road). This will be an ongoing program through Dutchess Outreach's Farm Stand program, with funding provided by Assemblymember Didi Barrett.

"No New Yorker should ever have to decide between paying a bill or putting food on the table, so combating food insecurity here in the Hudson Valley has long been a passion and priority of mine," said Assemblymember Didi Barrett. "I was very happy to partner with Dutchess Outreach to expand their Farm Stand initiative into the Town of Poughkeepsie. Dutchess Outreach has worked for decades to feed hungry Dutchess County residents, and this new initiative will allow more of our neighbors to access fresh, locally sourced food."

Today's delivery brought 7,000 lbs of groceries from the Food Bank to Town Hall, including potatoes, onions, apples, yogurt, cheese, milk, fruit, juice, and greens among other fresh items. Volunteers from Dutchess Outreach were joined by twenty Town residents, including Supervisor Rebecca Edwards and Dutchess County Legislator Lisa Kaul (District 6), to unload and distribute the groceries.

"So many of our residents are hungry right now," said Supervisor Edwards. "The extreme cold strains household budgets and adds to the need for nutritious meals. I'm so grateful to the amazing team from Dutchess Outreach, our Town volunteers, and Assemblymember Barrett for making this possible."

Dutchess Outreach reports that in Dutchess County approximately 26,130 individuals suffer from food insecurity, a number that represents roughly 8.8% of the population and includes 4,590 children. Of those, 41% of individuals are above the eligibility limit for SNAP and other Nutrition Programs.

"Today was our first farm stand in collaboration with the Town of Poughkeepsie at Town Hall. Rebecca Edwards, our Town Supervisor was super amazing and advocated for us to be able to have this farm stand here," said Nyhisha Gibbs, Director of Community Engagement for Dutchess Outreach, "We had a turnout of over 60 people, we had over 20 volunteers...people were so happy and grateful to receive all of the food that we gave them. Our volunteers were amazing and I am just all warm and fuzzy inside knowing that we were able to be here in this space to be able to feed our community."

The Town Hall Farm Stand/Food Pantry will be open twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursdays, moving outside in warmer weather. The Town may experiment with other locations; information will be on the Town website. The next event will be Thursday, February 13 starting at 9 am until all the food is dispersed.

County Legislator Lisa Kaul (District 6) said of today's pantry, "Times are tough and people have to make difficult decisions about what they can afford. Often people will forgo a meal to pay the rent or pay for gas. Many thanks to Supervisor Edwards and Dutchess Outreach for recognizing this immense need in our community and for hosting a farm stand at Town Hall today. No one should have to go to bed hungry."

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