

# **THE GIVING CIRCLE OF LOWER WESTCHESTER, INC.**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GIVING CIRCLE OF LOWER WESTHCESTER ANNOUNCES \$61,000 IN GRANTS TO 18 HUNGER RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS SERVING LOWER WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

- **2015 grants total \$71,000**

**White Plains, NY** (June 3, 2015). The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester awarded a record breaking \$61,000 to eighteen not-for-profit organizations that serve the hungry and food insecure in lower Westchester County. Award winners were selected based on their exceptional work in providing food and services to diverse communities in need. Each organization will receive grants of \$1,000 to \$5,000 through credits for food purchases from the Food Bank for Westchester (FBFW).

These grants are over and above the \$10,000 in funding provided by the Giving Circle this year to two preschools – New Rochelle Day Nursery and Yonkers-based Queens Daughters Daycare under the FBFW’s Green Thumb program. Each of the two preschools will receive a monthly distribution of “Green Thumb Bags” containing 6-8 varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables. The program advances a key priority of improving the nutritional value of food made available to those at risk of hunger in Westchester County.

The \$71,000 total funding by the Giving Circle in 2015 represents a 19% increase over its 2014 grants of \$59,500.

The FBFW estimates that about 200,000 residents in the county are at risk of hunger or facing food insecurity. Over half of them are seniors and more than one-third are children under the age of 18. Despite the improving economy, the need for hunger relief continues to grow.

“Thanks to our generous members, the Giving Circle continues to expand its ability to fulfil our mission: helping food pantries, soup kitchens and other frontline hunger relief organizations in lower Westchester. It’s been gratifying to watch the Giving Circle rise to address this serious challenge in our local community,” said Eric Nodiff, founder and President.

Explaining the Giving Circle, Nodiff said: “Members pool their contributions for the purpose of donating to a common philanthropic cause – hunger relief - based on the concept that larger, combined donations go further than several smaller individual checks. Our grants of even \$1,000 can make a meaningful difference to the grant recipients. Our membership is open to anyone with a desire to help in providing this vital service to our community.”

**Congratulations to the following 2015 Giving Circle of Lower Westchester award winners:**

- **Bowen Memorial Food Pantry – Mt. Vernon**
- **Caritas of Port Chester Food Pantry – Port Chester**
- **Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry at So. Presbyterian Church – Dobbs Ferry**
- **Ecumenical Emergency Food Pantry of White Plains – White Plains**
- **First Reformed Church Soup Kitchen – Mt. Vernon**
- **Grace Church Community Center Soup Kitchen – White Plains**
- **Hillside Food Outreach – Pleasantville**
- **HOPE Community Services Food Pantry – New Rochelle**
- **Masters Helping Hand Food Pantry – New Rochelle**
- **OLMC Elmsford Community Food Pantry – Elmsford**
- **Port Chester Carver Center Food Pantry – Port Chester**
- **Sacred Heart Food for the Hungry – Dobbs Ferry/Yonkers**
- **Sacred Heart Food Pantry – Mt. Vernon**
- **San Andres Episcopal Church Food Pantry – Yonkers**
- **St. Peter’s Food Pantry – Yonkers**
- **St. Thomas Brown Bag – Mamaroneck**
- **Steppin’ Up Yonkers Food Pantry – Yonkers**
- **Sts. John, Paul and Clement Church Food Pantry – Mt. Vernon**

*About The Giving Circle of Lower Westchester*

*The Giving Circle is a volunteer, grass-roots 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization made up of over 50 members who contribute a minimum of \$250 toward grant recipient funding. One hundred percent of the dollars raised goes directly to hunger relief. For more information on the Giving Circle of Lower Westchester, contact Eric Nodiff at [givingcirclelw@gmail.com](mailto:givingcirclelw@gmail.com).*