

BETHEL COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

January 2016

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide free food and hygiene items to Bethel residents in need, with compassion and respect for clients' dignity. We maintain good standing with the Connecticut Food Bank and are listed with the 211-referral service.

BCFP: connecting good neighbors with good food



A NOTE FROM STEVE DEUSCHLE, PRESIDENT OF THE BCFP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bethel has always been an incredible community in terms of people coming together to help. As you know, the Bethel Community Food Pantry (BCFP) has been a part of our community for more than twenty years. This past summer, to give the pantry some additional tools to serve Bethel residents better, the BCFP became a community-based operation staffed 100 percent by volunteers.

I'd like to talk a little bit about what we're going to be focused on in the year ahead. Many of you may know me from my work with Brotherhood in Action (BIA). Like the BCFP, BIA is a community organization dedicated to providing food and other kinds of assistance to Bethel residents in need. Working together will allow both of these organizations to better and more efficiently serve our clients in Bethel.

In 2016, we'll be looking at every area the pantry is involved in to see what's working well already, what services could be improved, and what additional types of things we could do that would make a meaningful difference for families served by BCFP.

This new quarterly eNewsletter is one example of the tools I mentioned. In this first issue, we'll let you know a little bit about who we are, what's coming up, and how you can be a part of it.

One of the important things to know about your community pantry is that we now focus entirely on providing food and hygiene products to Bethel residents. We have a new board in place made up of talented individuals in our community who come from a diverse range of backgrounds.

"Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have ideas about how we can carry out our mission. We'd love to hear from you!"





Steve Deuschle, President, BCFP Board

Contact Us

Registered families and those in need may pick up food from the BCFP on the dates listed below:

95 Greenwood Ave.

Bethel, CT 06801

203.743.1494

bethelpantry@yahoo.com

bethelcommunitypantry.org

Pantry Dates Jan-April 2016

Registered families and those in need may pick up food from the BCFP on the dates listed below:

January 19

February 2, 16

March 1, 15, 29

April 12, 26

Pantry Board of Directors

The [Bethel Community Food Pantry](#) has reorganized as an independent, community-based enterprise.

The move is designed to allow the pantry, which has been in operation at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church since 1993, to attract broader support and take advantage of additional strategies including new availability of grant support to better serve its clients in Bethel.

Under the restructuring, a new Board of Directors has been installed and is led by Steve Deuschle, President of the Board. Additional officers and members are:

- Karen Cook, Vice President
- Christopher Kwong, Treasurer
- Mary Buzak, Secretary
- Bobbi Jo Beers, Representing the Bethel Chamber of Commerce
- Susan Pople, Liaison to St. Thomas' Episcopal Church
- Leo Gallagher, Liaison to Brotherhood in Action
- John Esposito, Community Liaison
- Susan Budris, Bethel School District Liaison
- Michael Macchi, Town of Bethel Liaison
- Heidi Salcedo, Client Liaison
- Kip Betz, Communications Director

A Word of Thanks

The BCFP would like to thank its partners in the community for their generous assistance and support:

- Bethel United Methodist Church
- Boy Scout Troop Number 71
- Brotherhood in Action
- Christ Church, Redding, CT
- Interfaith AIDS Ministry
- The Connecticut Food Bank
- Panera Doughnation
- St. Paul's Church, Brookfield, CT
- St. Thomas' Church, Bethel, CT
- Target
- Trinity Church, Newtown, CT

Thank you also to all the individuals throughout the Bethel community who supported the BCFP in 2015.



Five Minutes with Fred Scipione, BCFP Coordinator

In this brief article, BCFP Coordinator Fred Scipione talks about what's going on, what's coming up, and how to get involved.

Q How did you get involved with the BCFP?

A First of all, I want to wish everyone in the Bethel community all the best for 2016. To answer your question, I started with the pantry four years ago because they needed someone with a strong back. I wanted to help and I had the time. My time at BCFP so far has really been a journey. I'm still learning all the time.

Q Whom does the pantry serve?

A Bethel residents who need our help. We recently refocused our mission to serving just our neighbors in Bethel. When we were serving Danbury also, we were at nearly 90 families, and we simply didn't have the manpower and the resources to do that, so we had to rethink it. Currently, we serve nearly 40 Bethel families with pantry pickup days every other Tuesday. We expect that number to grow in 2016, so manpower is a key issue.

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Q Can you put that in perspective?

A Those we serve include single-parent families who can't make paychecks stretch far enough to cover the kind of food that belongs on the table, people who are recovering from an illness or who have permanent illnesses and the bills that can come along with them, older residents on fixed incomes. More information about becoming a BCFP client is available on our website.

Q How can members of the community help?

A There are a variety of ways that individuals and groups can support us and get involved. We need volunteers to help with our distributions to clients every other Tuesday afternoon—and to help stock shelves every other Monday evening. So time and energy—and strong backs—are valuable resources to us. There are also some new opportunities for the right people.



Five Minutes with Fred Scipione, BCFP Coordinator (Cont.)

Donations of food are always needed; details are on our website, but key needs are staples, high-protein foods, dish and bar soaps, cleaning supplies, and paper towels, to name a few things. We have a growing list of partners and supporters and as I mentioned, we are excited about new opportunities to better serve our clients in 2016.

Q What's been the most surprising thing you've learned at the BCFP?

A In some way, all of us need some kind of support or help at some time in our lives. What I continue to receive through volunteering at the BCFP—even after four years—far exceeds what I have ever put into it. I don't expect that to ever change.

More information about BCFP including how to get involved and offer support is available at www.bethelcommunitypantry.org.

Kids' Corner

Kids have always been an important part of the story at the BCFP and have been some of our best and most energetic and dedicated volunteers.

We love our new logo and hope you do, too. We had two of our young BCFP supporters reimagine our new logo for this first issue of the newsletter and the results are pretty striking.

If you have a young artist—or happen to know one—ask them to create their own version of the BCFP logo, [send it to us](#), and we'll post it on our website, www.bethelcommunitypantry.org.



Greta, age 8



Ivy, age 6

