



COMMUNITY DINING ROOM

Fall 2018

“More than just a meal”

A Message from the Executive Director

Here we are. Fall of 2018. Our shoreline community is in need of help.

- * 118,809 children in Connecticut are living in poverty.
- * 56,083 working poor individuals in Connecticut participate in food programs.
- * Unemployment is down only two-tenths of a percentage point from last year.

These present ongoing challenges for our community and the CDR is here to do our part to provide a portion of that “safety net” which helps assure all our neighbors, families and children experience a quality of life that keeps them healthy and living together in proper housing. The CDR provides food support so hard working families can use their limited funds to pay their bills and keep their families safe. We are also continuing to be stewards to our participants in following our motto “More than just a meal” with resources that can help them in other areas they may be struggling in while providing food security as our main focus.

We are all troubled by these times, and pulling back where we can to conserve for the future. However, now is when the Community Dining Room needs your help more than ever. As the need for food we are providing increases so does our need for your support.

We know you will continue to help the best you can and together we will weather this storm and assure every family and child has a nutritious meal to eat every single day.



**Judith Barron, CDR
Executive Director
2018 Beacon Award
Winner**

**The mission of the
CDR is to end
hunger and
isolation with food,
fellowship,
referrals and
education.**

HELP US ‘GET FED UP’

Let’s get fed up! Join our Hunger Campaign on December 3rd. However you define neighbor, one of yours probably doesn’t know where their next meal is coming from. Be it a county road, city limit or just a simple fence, hunger knows no boundaries. Hunger is more than homelessness. It’s a kid down the street who is dreading a weekend without food provided by their school. It’s the mom working at the desk across from you who doesn’t know how she will pay the rent let alone put food on the table. Or it’s your elderly neighbor who is trying to figure out whether they will be able to purchase a needed prescription or buy groceries for the week. It’s real and it’s in our community. Help CDR end it. Get fed up!

You have the opportunity on **December 3rd** to join our campaign day in “**Getting Fed Up.**”
On December 3rd, please go to giveGreater.org® to donate to our campaign.

Daily Schedule

Lunch served daily- (365 days a year) Sunday—Friday 12 noon to 1:00 pm, Saturday Brunch 11 am—12 noon.

Tuesday evening— Kids Meal Night 5:30—6:30 pm.

Wednesday -Evening Take-out meals provided, pre-register and call in for your meals, contact 203-488-9750 for information.

Friday—Family Evening Take- out meals (2nd & 3rd Fridays), pre-register and call in for your meals , contact 203-488-9750 for information.

In the CDR Kitchen with Mary :

As we prepare to 'fall back' with the end of Daylight Saving Time and the Autumnal Equinox, it is time for us here at the Community Dining Room to say goodbye to all of the amazing fresh vegetables we have been receiving including tomatoes, zucchini, fragrant basil, and cucumbers!! We are certainly very appreciative for every donation. I can promise you that many delicious and nutritious meals were made from these wonderful donations. The meals were thoroughly enjoyed by our dining room guests as well as our home delivery recipients.



Always striving to keep our meals healthy and nutritious year round, we are asking for low sugar and low sodium items going forward if possible. With the hustle and bustle of the holidays just around the corner, we are in need of healthy canned fruits, vegetables and soups. A full list of the items we need is listed on page 4 of this newsletter. Or if you prefer to demonstrate your culinary skills, maybe you would like to prepare your favorite recipe for a vegetable or side-dish and drop it off to us to serve in the dining room on Thanksgiving or Christmas. Please call us to make arrangements so we can plan accordingly.

We are always grateful for the generosity of our community.

Mary, Kitchen Coordinator



Courtney's Corner :

"There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer." - James Doolittle



Many thanks to everyone involved in running another successful "Tuesday Dinner on The Green" program. In collaboration with Chartwells, the Kamran Farid Foundation and other local organizations we provided 100-150 people from our community with dinner on the town green each Tuesday night, along with a family activity. Thank you for those that donated their time for these weekly activities! And our annual backpack program helped outfit over 100 Branford children with backpacks full of school supplies for a great start to the school year. Thank you to all of the volunteers and donors that helped with these programs!

Each day we continue to be overwhelmed with the generosity of all of our volunteer's time. Without the help of hundreds of individuals throughout the year, success of our numerous programs would not be possible. And as we head into the holiday season, we will continue to see a need for assistance with all our programs. Not only do we strive to go above and beyond for our diners during this often-difficult time, but we also help local families in need. Each year we seek donations of new holiday toys, kids coats, scarves, hats, mittens as well as gift cards. Please reach out if you would like to help with any of our holiday programs. You can contact me at 203-488-9750 (extension 2).

Courtney, Volunteer Coordinator

Want to join our volunteer team! Here's how you can help:

Monday - Friday: Cooks/Dishwashers/Kitchen & Dining Room helpers/Food Donation Pick-ups

Monday, Wednesday or Friday: - Home Delivery Drivers (regular route driver or sub driver)

Fundraising and Event Help - Become part of our "Helping Hands of the CDR"

We always welcome local businesses, groups and organizations to come in and help!



The **Helping Hands of CDR** is looking for enthusiastic and energetic partners to join the team! **The Helping Hands of CDR** is a collaborative arm of the community working with CDR to help with fundraising, general maintenance, publicity, etc.

If you are interested, then consider this your personal invitation to join us!

Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:00pm at the CDR, located at the Volunteer Service Center, 30 Harrison Ave., Branford. For questions or more information, email us at CDRHelpingHands@gmail.com.

A Huge Thank-you to Fabrique and Francine Farkas Sears !!



Judy Barron (L) and Francine Farkas Sears (R)

On October 13th and 14th Francine Farkas Sears, owner of Fabrique specializing in the design and manufacturing of business cases and bags, generously opened her warehouse doors again this year for a fundraiser for the Community Dining Room. Every dollar raised from the two-day sale came directly to the CDR. It was an amazingly successful weekend. Volunteers from CDR and others, worked feverishly all weekend to setup the boxes of merchandise and help the crowd of buyers locate, select and purchase Fabrique’s beautiful products at terrific prices. At the end of Sunday, an amazing \$8,000 was raised which will greatly

help CDR to continue to provide over 50,000 meals a year to the shoreline community. But just when you think it couldn’t get better, Francine was able to secure two very generous individuals in the community willing to match the money raised at the sale. The Community Dining Room would like to graciously acknowledge the very generous donation from **Karen Pritzker and Shelley and Gordon Geballe**. You all are truly amazing, caring individuals and we are extremely grateful.

Our Home Bound Meal Delivery Program

The Branford Home Delivery program continues to assist the elderly, homebound and ill population in Branford by delivering hot, nutritious meals three days a week. Recently added is the ability to provide diabetic –friendly meals to our recipients who require that diet. If you are aware of a Branford resident who could benefit from our home delivered meals, please contact Barbara on 203-488-9750 (extension 3).



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support CDR every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price (0.5%) to CDR. Just select CDR as your charity. Thank you!

A Big Thank You to Our 2018 Sponsors

The Community Dining Room could not address hunger on the Shoreline without the support of our generous sponsors through Grants received so far in 2018. We thank you sincerely for your support.

Act II Thrift Shop	Exchange Club of Branford	Madison Foundation, INC
Bruce & Terri Alpert	First Baptist Church of Branford	Mary E. Davis Fund
Amity Charitable Trust	First Congregational Church of Branford	Phillip Mickelson
Archdiocese of Hartford	Foundation for Life, Inc.	Seedlings Foundation
Ben Baker	Guilford Savings Bank	Stop & Shop Branford
Branford Lion’s Club	Homemaker’s Thrift Shop	Swedish Aid Society
Branford VFW	The Kamran Farid Foundation	Town Fair Tire
Community Foundation of Greater NH	Key Bank	Walmart Branford
Emergency Food & Shelter Program		

CDR Wish List

We are currently in need of the following items. Please consider a donation today.

General Items

White napkins (everyday)
Scouring powder (Bon ami)
Sponges
Aluminum foil
6 inch paper dessert plates
45 gallon trash bags
Sharpies (Black- fine point)
Masking tape

Food Items

Bottled juice (cranberry, orange, apple)	Chicken, Beef or Vegetable Stock
Baked beans	Ground beef
Salad dressing	Olive and vegetable oil
Brown rice	Milk
Low sodium canned vegetables	Canned fruit in natural juices or low sugar
Low sodium canned soup	Eggs
Butter	Cheddar cheese
Bread crumbs	Pam spray

All items can be dropped at CDR Monday through Friday between the hours of 9 AM to 2 PM.

How to find us:

- **Our Website** www.communitydiningroom.org
- Follow us on **Facebook**
- **Contact us via email or phone:**
 - Judith Barron (Executive Director)
203-488-9750 (extension 4) or jbarron@communitydiningroom.org
 - Courtney Rosenberg (Volunteer Coordinator)
203-488-9750 (extension 2) or crosenberg@communitydiningroom.org
 - Barbara Barrett (Home Delivery Coordinator and Administrative Support)
203-488-9750 (extension 3) or info@communitydiningroom.org
- **Visit us at the Volunteer Service Center, 30 Harrison Avenue in Branford, CT**

CDR Board of Directors	
Bill Kirwin (Chair)	Carolyn Rambus (Chair)
Charlene Marqua	Rita Foster
Tony Pinto	Lynda Mollow
Skip Ferry	John Opie
Cheryl Germaine	Diane Pappacoda
Daniel Armin	

<p>The Diaper Bank sponsored by CDR & Branford Early Learning Center</p> <p>To qualify call Diane Pappacoda (203-488-4512)</p> <p>Located at 30 Harrison Ave (now accepting diaper donations)</p>
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A big thank you to TYCO for assisting us with the printing of this newsletter!

