Our food pantry story...

Last April we showed you the faces of Franklin - now we are going to share with you the story of our food pantry...

Our pantry started out in the 80’s as a shoe rack on the back of a door where those who had, put food in, and those who needed took the food out. A very easy concept, but one that made sense and worked! We have stuck with that same basic principle but have grown tremendously over the years.

Following the rack on the back of the door, the food pantry got a room of its own. A small space located on the main floor of our offices - the pantry flourished for years. With help from Leadership Saratoga Class of 2011 we replaced the weary plastic shelving units that lined the walls and created a back stock area with metal shelving donated from Price Chopper. The space looked amazing and we were able to meet the demand and keep the shelves stocked (most of the time).

Since then the need for our pantry services has dramatically increased. Our Long Term Planning Committee ran a fine tooth comb through our programs and services and decided the best way for Franklin to invest back into the community was to expand the pantry. The idea was presented to our Board of Directors and with unanimous approval the process began.

Over the past year a dedicated group of supporters has worked tirelessly on the pantry expansion. A capital campaign was coordinated to raise the necessary funding. Donations of equipment, office furniture and contracting services were secured in order to keep with Franklin’s fiscally savvy nature, and many talented locals were approached for their feedback and skills.

We are happy to report that everyone’s hard work and determination has paid off. The new pantry, located on the back side of our building, is exactly what we needed and hoped for. We are now able to give out, and accept, both perishable and non-perishable items. Franklin has successfully become a member of the North Eastern New York Regional Food Bank and is in the process of securing funding to utilize our new found purchasing power.

We are still relying on YOU to help - now more than ever. Donations of perishable items, non-perishable items, volunteers, and monetary contributions are what is necessary to allow us to continue to meet the demand. Although we have changed and grown over the years,...we WILL stay true to our grass roots approach and our philosophy of “sending people out the door with whatever they came in looking for”.

Our ribbon cutting ceremony will take place this spring - we hope to see you there!

Capital Campaign Committee Members:
Colleen Carlson, Honorary Co-chair; L. Clifford Van Wagner, Honorary Co-Chair; Jason Lynch, Chair; Mylea Aldrich; Chris Cook; Kari Cushing; Karen D’Andrea, Esq; Andrew Ferrara; Mary Gavin; George Igler; Jennie Jurkiewicz; Jim LaVigne; Terry Lee; Michael Russo; Jaime Williams

Please visit the capital campaign page on our website for an up to date list of donors.

New Food Pantry Hours:
Monday - Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday: 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Friday: Closed
What’s Happening

- Mark your calendars for **Monday, May 11th** - Mingle on The Avenue — Attitude of Gratitude. 15% of breakfast, lunch AND dinner proceeds will be donated to Franklin.
- **Our 17th Annual Franklin Open Golf Tournament is June 6th** at Windy Hills. Registration form is on page 3. Get yours in right away — space is limited!
- Our free store at **101 Washington** is now accepting spring clothing. Don’t forget, Cudney’s collects in-season clothing on our behalf on the first Saturday of every month.
- **Project Lift University is October 8th**, at Longfellows. More info on page 4.
- **Please help us keep our food pantry stocked** as we head into spring and summer. A list of most needed items is on the right.
- Feel like adding a splash of color to the neighborhood? We are looking for donations of annuals to spruce up the grounds here at Franklin.
- We have many volunteering opportunities at our food pantry. Contact Julie for more information: Julie@franklincommunitycenter.org / 518.587.9826
- **Leadership Saratoga Class of 2015 Team FCC** has been hard at work creating a streamlined volunteer process to help us utilize our greatest resource, YOU! We are so lucky to have been chosen as one of the projects for this year. Thank you Leadership Saratoga and especially Team FCC!!

Major Generosity

We would like to thank the following **Major Sponsors** who have signed on at a level of $5,000 or higher to support us for the year 2015. We are so lucky to have them behind Franklin Community Center and our mission!

- Informz
- Kincaid Network Solutions
- The Ethel & W. George Kennedy Foundation
- New Country Toyota & Scion
- Saratoga Casino and Raceway
- Saratoga Springs Lions Club
- Jim LaVigne & Mary Gavin
- D.A. Collins Companies
- Boghosian Bros
- The River Farm Foundation

Don't Forget:
Donation day at our “free store” at 101 Washington Street is Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. We are now accepting spring clothing and small household items.

**Food Items Needed:**
- Cereal
- Tuna
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit
- Noodle Side Dishes
- Chef Boyardee
- Hamburger Helper
- Hearty Soups
- Rice

Please keep the children and families we serve in mind, especially as spring and summer breaks approach and more kids are at home.

“*Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don’t hurt them.*” Dalai Lama
Franklin Community Center will host its 17th annual golf tournament benefit at Windy Hills Golf Course, located at 219 Windy Hills Road in Greenwich, NY. The Franklin Open is a big event for us, and we’re planning to make our 17th year another great one! All of the proceeds from The Franklin Open go directly back into providing programs and services to community members in need. Not a golfer? Sign up to be part of the “Franklin Fantoms!” Your $25 entry fee will entitle you to a tournament t-shirt and your name will be listed in our upcoming newsletter. We are still looking for sponsors and prize donors; for information on our sponsorship opportunities please contact Franklin Community Center at 587-9826. The first 80 officially registered participants will enjoy 18 holes of golf with course side refreshments, followed by prizes and lunch.

All players should arrive for a 7:30 a.m. sign-in with rules and an 8:00 a.m. shotgun start to follow. Please fill out the registration form below for your team of four players and mail it with credit card information, check or money order to:

Franklin Community Center, 10 Franklin Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Or register online at www.FranklinCommunityCenter.org

Registration Form

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<th>T-shirt size*</th>
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* Please indicate t-shirt size if you are registering as a Franklin Fantom. T-shirts will be sold for $10.00 at the tournament, if you would like to pre-order please indicate your size. (Limited quantity available)

Billing Information:

☐ I have enclosed a check or money order in the amount of $________

☐ Please charge my card: MC / Visa / Discover accepted

Credit Card #: __________________________ Security Code: _______ Exp Date: _______

Name appearing on card: __________________________

Billing Address for card: __________________________

Amount to be charged on card: __________________________

* Please note registration forms are accepted on a first come, first serve basis. You are officially registered when we have all information and fees for your entire team.
In Project Lift News:

From the Coordinator...Once again, winter put the freeze on Saratoga Springs, but with Spring here we at Project Lift are ready to move our learning outside! The Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence lessons provide exciting and interactive projects to educate the kids while we wait out the cold. Sixteen new volunteers from Saratoga High School and Waldorf School of Saratoga Springs have joined us and brought new energy for the push into spring. Presenters from The Tang Museum, Saratoga Children’s Museum, and Smile Sanctuary will be coming in the next couple of months to engage the students in some positive activities and help inspire them for the Project Lift Youth Art Show family event in May. There will also be a Family Fun Day at the end of April to let the kids have a blast with friends and family and teach them activities to bring home, so the fun lasts even after they leave Project Lift.

- We’d like to extend our thanks to the Christopher Dailey Foundation and the Saratoga Springs Rotary Club for providing summer camp scholarships. We are continually looking for funding to support summer camp adventures. Please contact Lindsay if you are interested in helping. We’re grateful for the continued efforts by our community to make a difference in these kids’ lives!

- Our fifth annual “Project Lift University” fundraiser is scheduled for October 8th at Longfellows. It is a unique fundraiser essential to raising funds to support Project Lift, our free, after-school prevention program. Mark your calendars, please. It’s going to be a blast!