

Annual Meeting

Wednesday,

October 25, 2006

7:00 P.M.

Piano Bar at Master's Touch

Please note the change in time and plan to join us.

All are welcome

2005-2006 — The Year In Review

At this time last year, the Medfield Food Cupboard was feeling the effects of a myriad of natural disasters which had struck around the world. The enormity of these events, coupled with the related publicity, meant that, while Medfield residents were still opening their hearts and wallets to help those in need, the Food Cupboard wasn't getting the support we had become used to and still required. We took our plight public in the *Medfield Press*, *Hometown Weekly*, and even with large signs in the center of town proclaiming that "the Cupboard is bare". And Medfield residents once again proved that we live in a wonderful, caring town! The contributions of money, SCRIP and food items were overwhelming! We filled our shelves and were able to accommodate the increased number of families being served, without having to scrimp or turn anyone away—especially over the holidays.

This year we continued to service our clients every other week, providing canned goods, meats, fresh produce, breads, paper goods and beauty aids. We were able to continue distribution once a month in the summer, and supplemented our items with Shaw's SCRIP. We were even able to provide CVS gift cards once. The distribution process allows our clients to do their own shopping from an array of products we offer, and the clients have had the opportunity to select only the products they want and need. In addition to the "standard fare", we have also offered "selects" for them to choose from - items that are one of a kind or specialty items. We work to meet special dietary needs, and if necessary, we have arranged for an occasional early pick-up or home delivery.

We have been very fortunate to have the residents of Medfield supporting our efforts. Without the individuals, organizations, and businesses that donate food and provide monetary support, we simply could not meet the needs of our clients. We have been able to supplement the canned food donations with perishable items purchased through monetary and SCRIP donations. This enables the Food Cupboard to ensure that our clients receive a full range of nourishing foods. In addition, there are groups in town who provide special products for our clients, including: Easter dinner baskets, Valentine's Day goodies, pies, birthday boxes for the children and Christmas trees.

Thank you for your continued support!

Holiday Schedule

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 16

Christmas

Thursday, December 21

Cupboard Closed:

12/22-1/3

Reopening January 4

Many Thanks to:

SCRIP

The Medfield Schools

Blue Moon

Donut Express

Shaw's

Roche Brothers

United Church of Christ

Boy Scouts

Girl Scouts

Church of the Advent

St. Edward's Church

Helping Hands

The Medfield Food Cupboard works because of the efforts of many people and organizations in town. It could not succeed simply with the work of the volunteers and Steering Committee. Instead, there are a number of factors that make us successful, and once again show how the residents of Medfield care about others.



Our plea for help last fall resulted in a number of efforts to fill our shelves. Some were individual efforts, such as that of Madison Colleran who ran a lemonade stand and donated her proceeds to the Food Cupboard. Others were organizational efforts, such as the Medfield Lions' Club, which created the "Cupboard is Bare" signs for the center of town, donated Christmas trees for our clients, and offered a coupon to each tree purchaser to designate a \$5 donation to the Medfield Food Cupboard. Girl Scouts and Brownie troops made donations. Individuals made donations to honor teachers in the Medfield Public Schools. The churches of Medfield publicized our need in their weekly bulletins, encouraging their members to consider us when supporting missions. Our Easter dinner boxes, holiday pies, birthday boxes, Easter egg coloring supplies, Christmas trees, and other surprise goodies are all above and beyond what we could normally provide to our clients, and all are because of the generosity of Medfield residents.

Food Drives have been the life blood of the Medfield Food Cupboard. Our biggest drive is the Postal Drive—not only in volume of food items provided, but with the number of volunteers who are on hand to enthusiastically help us sort and shelve the donations. This year even the pouring rain couldn't dampen our spirits! We also benefit from the Little Red Wagon food drive sponsored by the Sunday Schools of the Medfield Churches and those conducted by the Boy Scouts.

What is exciting for us is to see the volunteer spirit of Medfield youth. We have benefited from the work of Boy Scouts who have been working on Eagle projects, high school students interested in performing community service, and families who have worked together on food drives. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Brownie troops in town have been very generous with their time and talents. The students of the Medfield Schools have participated in a number of projects benefiting the Food Cupboard. The Beacon Project at Dale Street provides specifically requested items for our shelves on a regular basis. Food drives have been conducted in both the Middle and High School through the Student Council and Public Service Clubs. This past year the High School students donated over 1000 items! It is rewarding for us to see the young people in Medfield reach out to those less fortunate within our community.

Together we can make it happen!

Snow Policy



If school is dismissed early or cancelled due to the weather, the Food Cupboard will be open the next day (Friday) at the same hours.

The Food Cupboard at Work

Food Cupboard volunteers take on a variety of jobs. Those who shelve are responsible for checking expiration dates, sorting the items and shelving. Volunteers are typically busier in the fall and winter, as there are several large food drives by school groups, civic organizations and businesses. Our shoppers head to the grocery store with coupons, sale flyers and SCRIP to pick up the perishable items. We do utilize the Greater Boston Food Bank on occasion to supplement items of canned goods, frozen meats, cheese, cereals and juices at greatly reduced prices. Packers are responsible for packing the crates of food to be carried up to the distribution center for client selection. Those who volunteer in distribution oversee the client selection process on Thursday afternoons. These individuals have a good relationship with our clients, making the Medfield Food Cupboard a comfortable place to visit. Our volunteers also conduct tours, speak at the schools and for local groups, coordinate special drives/donations, and in general, work together to provide for our clients.

The Food Cupboard Home

We would be remiss if we didn't thank the United Church of Christ for housing the Medfield Food Cupboard. While all of the churches in Medfield support our pantry with food drives, special collections, and providing holiday meals and gifts, the UCC has provided us with much needed space and access so that we can have collection, shelving and distribution space. We greatly appreciate the facilities which are provided to us so that we can meet the needs of Medfield residents.

Volunteers Make The Difference

We truly appreciate the dedication and commitment of our volunteers who are so willing to give their time to assist our neighbors in need. Whether you work as a shopper, shelper, packer, work in distribution, drive, pick up at the Greater Boston Food Bank, or help in any other way, the Medfield Food Cupboard wouldn't have been able to exist all these years without your help. Our volunteers are the best that Medfield has to offer! Some members have worked with the Food Cupboard since its inception, others are newcomers, but all are welcome. Thanks to all of you for your hard work and support!

Sadly, we have lost some long-time Food Cupboard volunteers and supporters in the past year. We will miss them greatly. Our condolences to their families.

If you are interested in becoming a Food Cupboard volunteer, please call the Food Cupboard and leave a message indicating your area of interest, and we will return your call with details.

Just a quick reminder—if you are unable to volunteer at your scheduled time, you are responsible for finding a substitute.



Items Needed

If you are interested in donating items to the Medfield Food Cupboard, we are always in need of juice, coffee, tea, cereal, and canned chicken.

2006-2007 Steering Committee

President: Beth Eby

Vice President: Caren Mc Elhenny

Recording Secretary: Martha Sherman

Treasurer: Liz Quinn

Corresponding Secretary: Polly Hayes

Distribution: Marilyn Carroll

Packing: Ruth Luecke

Shelving: Betty Sanders

The Steering Committee meets regularly throughout the year to conduct the business of the Med-field Food Cupboard. Terms of office are for one year, with elections held at the Annual Meeting in the fall. If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee in the future, please contact Beth Eby.