

# Medfield Food Cupboard

Phone (508) 359-4958

Volume I, Issue 17

October 2008

## Annual Meeting

Wednesday,

November 12, 2008

7:15 P.M.

**Church of the Advent**

**Pleasant St.**

**Please plan to join us.**

*All are welcome*



## 2007-2008 – The Year In Review

Hunger in America? How about hunger in Medfield? Fortunately for our growing list of clients, the residents of Medfield truly care about their neighbors, and the Food Cupboard has been able to meet the increasing demands for service this past year. The stories that we hear are heart-wrenching—loss of jobs, illness, desperation and fear. Not one of our clients wants to need our services, but they are all SO thankful that we are there to provide a safety net for their families.

With the tremendous support of Medfield residents (and even some out-of-towners), 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 even provided CVS gift cards on occasion. The distribution process allows our clients to do their own shopping from an array of products we stock, and the clients have the opportunity to select only the products they want and need. In addition to the "standard fare", we 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 are 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 expanding 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 gifts for the children and Christmas trees.

We are continually amazed at the creativity and generosity of Medfield residents as they find new ways to support our efforts as we work to meet the needs of the Food Cupboard clients.

Thank you for your continued support!

## *Holiday Schedule*

### Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 20

### Christmas

Thursday, December 18

Cupboard Closed:

12/19-1/7

Reopening January 8

### Many Thanks to:

SCRIP

The Medfield Schools

Blue Moon

Donut Express

Shaw's

Roche Brothers

United Church of Christ

Unitarian Church

Church of the Advent

St. Edward's Church

Medfield Lions Club

First Baptist Church

## Together We Make It Happen

The Medfield Food Cupboard works because of the efforts of many people and organizations in town. Each individual or group contributes a “piece of the whole” that is the Food Cupboard, and together, we make it work for the Medfield Community.



Medfield churches are one of the lynchpins of the Food Cupboard. Many thanks to the United Church of Christ—the Food Cupboard home! The UCC has provided us with much needed space and access so that we can have collection, shelving and distribution space. St. Edward’s CCD classes created Easter baskets for our children, with lots of age specific goodies. In addition, a dozen people participated in St. Edward’s Community Service Day at the Food Cupboard, and spent their hours cleaning our bins and shelves, helping sort canned goods by expiration date, and packing for our next distribution. All of the Medfield churches support our pantry with food drives, special collections, providing holiday meals and gifts, and responding generously when we’ve asked for extra help.

The Medfield Lions’ Club has made it a point to support us by donating Christmas trees for our clients, and offering a coupon to each tree purchaser to designate a \$5 donation to the Medfield Food Cupboard. They are always willing to help when we express a need. Girl Scouts and Brownie troops made donations, the Boy Scouts had a food drive, and our clients had fresh produce all summer long, thanks to donations from Powisset Organic Farm. The Postal Drive continues to be one of our largest food drives, and this provides an opportunity for families to work together as we sort the incoming food and carry it down to the shelving area. At Medfield Day in September, several organizations had raffles with the proceeds donated to the Food Cupboard.

How do we meet the needs of our clients? “Together We Make It Happen.” Four young boys whose mothers volunteer for the Food Cupboard organized their own food drive and collected over 15 bags of non-perishable items, along with cash and SCRIP donations. Temple Beth David recently delivered over 100 bags of food. Weight Watchers’ participants donated a pound of food for every pound that was lost over a six week period this fall, and Curves sponsored a food drive. CVS has run specials to benefit the Food Cupboard, and has donated 300 rolls of paper towels and small packages of tissues. 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. We have food drives scheduled for every month this next year which will definitely help keep our shelves full. Chelsea Roberts, a young Medfield entrepreneur with her own “Party Package” business, is creating birthday boxes for all of our children.

Shaw’s and Roche Brothers supermarkets are extremely helpful by offering savings, pre-packaging meats, and even volunteering.

Thanks to everyone—Medfield proves that 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.

# Volunteers Make the Difference

Food Cupboard volunteers take on a variety of jobs. Those who shelve are responsible for checking expiration dates, sorting the items and shelving the products for easy retrieval by the packers. 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. Packers are responsible for packing the bins of food to be carried up to the distribution center for client selection, making sure there are adequate quantities and interesting selections. Our unsung heroes are the “luggers” - those individuals who carry all the bins of food up the stairs on the mornings the Food Cupboard is open. It’s no small task to carry the hundreds of pounds of foodstuffs up the concrete steps and into the meeting hall for distribution set up. 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. As our client numbers increase, so does the amount of time and effort that it takes to provide Food Cupboard services. It’s a lot of work, and requires a large number of people, but everyone seems to enjoy working at the Food Cupboard. Our volunteers are a tremendous group of people, and to them we say **“THANK YOU! You make a difference in Medfield.”**



There are many ways you can help the Food Cupboard: volunteer your time, organize a food drive at your school, church, or social group, make a contribution. If you are interested in helping us continue to serve the residents of Medfield, please fill out the form below and return it to: Med-

**YES, I want to help the Medfield Food Cupboard in the following way:**

\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering as a:  shopper  shelper  packer

\_\_\_ I would like to organize an event to benefit the Food Cupboard. (Please describe)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I wish to make a contribution in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ Other (Please describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to Medfield Food Cupboard, PO Box 172, Medfield, MA 02052**

# 2008-2009 Steering Committee

Below is the slate of officers for the Medfield Food Cupboard Steering Committee for 2008-2009. The term of office is one year, and elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on November 12, 2008, which is open to the public. Please plan to attend.

President: Beth Eby

Vice President: Caren McElhenny

Recording Secretary: Martha Sherman

Treasurer: Liz Quinn

Corresponding Secretary: Polly Hayes

Distribution: Jeanne Sullivan/Carol Bergenheim

Packing: Ruth Luecke

Shelving: Betty Sanders

Shopping Coordinator: Kathie Patterson

The Steering Committee meets regularly throughout the year to conduct the business of the Medfield Food Cupboard. If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee in the future, please contact Beth Eby.

## **Medfield Food Cupboard**

**P.O. Box 172**

**Medfield, MA 02052**