



# **VOLUNTEER VIEWS & NEWS FROM THE FOOD BANK FEBRUARY 2017**

**This newsletter is dedicated to the volunteers of the Regional Food Bank, Patroon Land Farm, and Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. You help us provide much-needed food and other supplies to people in need. Thank you!**

## **Online Volunteer Registration to Launch Shortly!**

Food Bank of the Hudson Valley volunteers will have the first chance to use our soon-to-be-launched online volunteer registration system. Gone will be the days of phoning or emailing, waiting for a response and going through all the back-and-forth efforts those forms of communication require. Now volunteers will be able to set up their own profiles and sign up for shifts right on our websites. Regional Food Bank volunteers will have their chance to use the system in March. M.E. Mazur set up the system for us and is available for questions at 518-786-3691, x234 or [marym@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:marym@regionalfoodbank.net).

## **10th Annual Neighborhood Food Drive Sets Record**

The last week of January was a busy one as dozens of volunteers delivered thousands of grocery bags to homes in neighborhoods all over the Capital District, and then returned to those homes on January 22 to pick up bags homeowners filled with food. **The 10th Annual Neighborhood Food Drive brought in more than 30,000 pounds of donated food in one weekend.** ☺

In addition to soliciting donations of food, this year's drive encouraged monetary donations to help us purchase a van for future food drive use. Hannay Reels, Adirondack Beverages and Old Brick Furniture matched donations to help us get the van even faster.

We thank the drive's founder, Kathy Busch; her husband, Dr. Bob Busch; Stephen and Judy Krakower; Shara Siegfeld; students at All Saints Academy; Tri-City Rentals; Hannay Reels; Adirondack Beverages; Old Brick Furniture; and all the hunger champions who donated time, food, and funds to this incredible community event.

## **A Volunteer for all Seasons**

**Deb Karius** has mastered the art of volunteer multi-tasking, both for the Food Bank and other organizations. Here she organizes volunteer groups from her office and her church on a quarterly basis, collects donations for the Holiday Hunger Appeal at Crossgates Mall in December, delivers bags and picks up food donations for the Annual Neighborhood Food Drive in January, and gives her time at our annual Mac-n-Cheese Bowl in February.

In addition, Deb volunteers for Make a Wish, the Salvation Army, the City Mission of Schenectady, Ronald McDonald House, and Grassroots Givers. Obviously, Deb doesn't watch a lot of TV! When asked what motivates her to give so much of her time to so many organizations, she had this to say: **"I enjoy serving the community. It's a blessing to be a blessing to others.** There are many needs out there, and it can be overwhelming to know where to start. I suggest just starting somewhere. **The Food Bank is a great place to start!"**



## And a Little Child Shall Lead Them...

Kudos to all the moms, dads, and caretakers who include their children in the volunteer process. Little ones love to volunteer and are productive and helpful on their shifts. Here are a few pictures of recent kids in action.



Saturday, February 18, 2017

11:00am – 2:30pm

Marcelle Athletic Complex

Siena College, Loudonville

*to benefit the Regional Food Bank*

## Patroon Land Farm Greenhouse – Seeding



While winter is still bringing us its icy blasts and below freezing temperatures, at the Farm we have a warm inviting setting where we begin the farm season. Our greenhouse, heated by the sun or gas heater if necessary, is being prepared to begin our time of seed planting. Potting soil will soon be delivered, seed trays will be pulled out from their winter sleep, and seed packs will be lined up according to their order of planting. **We invite you to come and join us** – bring spouses, children, family, friends, co-workers, or a group that you belong to for a couple of hours of planting and good fellowship. **Please contact Farmer Laura at [lauram@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:lauram@regionalfoodbank.net) for all the details and to schedule time.**

## How to Reach Us to Volunteer

Regional Food Bank Volunteer Coordinators: 518-786-3691, x234 or [volunteers@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:volunteers@regionalfoodbank.net)  
Food Bank of the Hudson Valley: 845-534-5344, x116 or [CGriffinDePaolis@foodbankofhudsonvalley.org](mailto:CGriffinDePaolis@foodbankofhudsonvalley.org)  
Patroon Land Farm: [lauram@regionalfoodbank.net](mailto:lauram@regionalfoodbank.net) or Farmer Mark at 518-339-5726