

PARTNERS IN A VISION



Connie Stewart receives this year's Partners in a Vision award for her passion and advocacy to make Worcester County "hunger-free"

The "Partners in a Vision" award was established in 2005 to honor a partner agency representative each year, whether volunteer or staff, who personifies and brings to life the mission of the Worcester County Hunger-Free Network. The Network's partners share the Food Bank's

mission to "feed hungry people today while working to create hunger-free communities of tomorrow."

Connie Stewart of the United Congregational Church in

Worcester was honored this year at the annual partners conference on June 5th, also Hunger Awareness Day. Executive Director Jean McMurray praised Connie as one "whose passion for understanding the root causes of hunger and knowledge of legislative advocacy are well-suited to

making the vision of a hunger-free Worcester County a reality. She is a person who sees the best in every person and brings out the best in everyone."



"Partners in a Vision": William Highlands, St. Paul's Outreach, Worcester (2005), Connie Stewart, United Congregational Church, Worcester (2007), Wanda Davis, Fitchburg/Leominster Community Action Center (2006)



1982 to 2007: 25 years of feeding hungry people in Worcester County with your help

The Worcester County Food Bank's mission is to "engage, educate and lead Worcester County in creating a hunger-free community."

Contact us at: 474 Boston Turnpike (Rte. 9), Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508.842.3663 (phone) • 508.842.7405 (fax)
info@foodbank.org • www.foodbank.org

SAVE THE DATES!

10/13	Harvest Ball DCU Center Grand Ballroom
11/8-3/15/08	Exhibit: <i>Got Food? Creating a Hunger-Free Community</i> at the Worcester Historical Museum
11/16	Turkey Day Juniper Hill Golf Course
11/27-12/16	Spirit of Giving Food Drive Shaw's Supermarkets

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 13

The Harvest Ball Celebrating 25 Years of Help and Hope



Saturday, October 13, 2007
DCU Center Grand Ballroom
Dinner, Dancing and Auctions

Harvest Ball Sponsors (as of August 1)

Clover Sponsors
Digital Federal Credit Union
Nypro, Inc.

Shaws Supermarkets
Stop & Shop Supermarkets
Sovereign Bank

Durham Wheat Sponsors
Fidelity Investments
Hannaford Supermarkets
Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences
Unum

Please contact the Worcester County Food Bank for sponsorship, table, and ticket information at 508-842-3663 or visit www.foodbank.org.

WORCESTER
COUNTY
FOOD
BANK



Food For Thought

Creating a Hunger-Free Community
Volume 5, Number 1, Summer 2007

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF HELP AND HOPE:

REFLECTING ON 25 YEARS

THEN...

The Worcester County Food Bank opened its doors for business on November 1, 1982 at Alumni Cold Storage & Distributors on Millbrook Street in Worcester as a project of Catholic Charities.

Rev. Edmund T. Tinsley, then assistant director of Catholic Charities, and others at the time, recognized the need and together launched the Food Bank. "The need for the service is escalating", he said at the time, adding that "response from agencies which will draw on the new resource has been enthusiastic."

In that first year, 120 agencies and 20,000 individuals benefited from the Food Bank as 662,000 pounds of food were distributed.

AND NOW...

Since the Food Bank was founded 25 years ago, it has collected and distributed more than 60 million pounds of food to Worcester County neighbors in need. Each year, the Food Bank distributes five million pounds of food through its partner agencies to 71,000 individuals in need throughout Worcester County.

In 1991, the Food Bank incorporated as an independent entity, separate

from Catholic Charities. For a number of years, the Food Bank operated as a "satellite" connected with the Greater Boston Food Bank, but today operates independently.

THEN... "The Food Bank's old location fifteen years ago was cramped and tiny."

AND NOW... "After the Food Bank moved to its new location ten years ago, warehouse space more than doubled. Now there's more space to store a greater variety of foods, so we have more choices. Everyone at the Food Bank is friendly and helpful. It's really easy to work with the Food Bank."

Wanda Davis of the Fitchburg/Leominster Community Action Center, involved with the Food Bank for 20 years



The Food Bank has grown over the years as the need for food assistance has

THE HARVEST BALL

OCTOBER 13, 2007

The Harvest Ball – Celebrating 25 Years of Help and Hope will highlight the Worcester County Food Bank's 25th Anniversary year. Supporters will join in celebration at the DCU Center in the Grand Ballroom on Saturday, October 13. This event offers a unique opportunity to bring the Food Bank community together and recognize its supporters and accomplishments in a milestone year.

The Harvest Ball, co-hosted by Congressman Jim McGovern and Governor Deval Patrick, will feature dinner, music, dancing, and live and silent auctions.

Auction items include a hot air balloon flight, Patriots and Red Sox tickets, and a Cape Cod get-away. More items are on the way. Board member Elizabeth Weiss and her husband Jay have graciously chaired the Committee.

Whether you are representing a company wanting to support a worthwhile cause or you are an individual looking to give back, the Food Bank offers an exceptional return on your investment. For every dollar donated, the Food Bank can distribute six dollars worth of food. Ninety-six percent of all donations go directly to feeding hungry people. When you buy a table at The Harvest Ball (\$1,500), the Food Bank can distribute \$8,640 worth of food.

By participating, you help the Food Bank distribute five million pounds of food to your neighbors in need annually. You are helping the Food Bank's network of 216 agencies that feed hungry people in 60 communities in Worcester County – 39 percent are children under 18, and 31 percent are in households with at least one adult who is employed.

Your presence at the Harvest Ball would be especially meaningful in light of the 25th Anniversary of the Food Bank. Help celebrate the many achievements of what started as a small, not-for-profit Food Bank that has grown to a great organization with an ambitious dream – ending hunger in our community.



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REFLECTING ON 25 YEARS

grown. In 1997, the Food Bank moved to its current location on Route 9 in Shrewsbury, a 37,000 square foot warehouse which doubled the available space for collecting and storing food.

In 1997, the Food Bank purchased its first delivery truck and in 2000, acquired a second truck to collect and deliver perishable foods in the *Second Serving Food Rescue Program* which collects surplus food and meals from local supermarkets, restaurants, and farms.

THE FUTURE...

The Food Bank, together with its 216 partner agencies, will continue to work to create the hunger-free community we all envision. Everyone can help.

HOW YOU CAN HELP END HUNGER...

Donate. Go to www.foodbank.org and click on "Donate."

Visit the Food Bank for a tour, or invite someone from the Food Bank to speak to your church, temple, or civic group.

Volunteer. Hours are available between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the Food Bank in Shrewsbury.

Advocate. Sign up for action alerts to take action against hunger. Visit www.hungeractioncenter.org to learn more.

Organize a Food Drive. Your workplace, church, or group can join in to help—find out how at www.foodbank.org.



ON VOLUNTEERING AT THE FOOD BANK... *"It's a great organization with friendly staff. I am hooked on volunteering here and hope others will take up this rewarding 'occupation'."*

Jeanne Johnson, Food Bank volunteer since 2000

THEN... *"Before the Food Bank, we had to be very selective in who we gave food assistance. There wasn't enough and we couldn't serve everyone who needed help."*

AND NOW... *"Thank God for the Food Bank. Friendly House would certainly be in a very difficult, if not impossible position, to meet the needs of everyone without the Food Bank."*

Gordon P. Hargrove, of Friendly House, who was involved with the creation of the Food Bank in 1982



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all that you have done to support the Food Bank in reaching this milestone of 25 years. The Harvest Ball is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate our collective accomplishments over the years. The Food Bank is very proud to partner with all of you and include you as a member of our community that cares about ending hunger.

In the near future you will receive an invitation in the mail to participate in the Worcester County Food Bank's *Harvest Ball, Celebrating 25 years of Help and Hope*.

The Harvest Ball will be held on October 13, 2007 in the Grand Ballroom at the DCU Center in Worcester. It promises to be an evening of great fun while supporting the Food Bank's mission of ending hunger. Proceeds from the event will translate into the precious gifts of food and hope to 71,000 of our neighbors needing help right here in Worcester County.

There are a number of ways you can contribute to our 25th Anniversary:

- Be a corporate or individual sponsor
- Host a table of friends and family members
- Donate items for our silent and live auctions
- Spread the word about this event among your colleagues and neighbors

The Food Bank's 25th Anniversary is a milestone and it is a time for us to recognize the progress our community has made towards solving the problem of hunger as well as to energize ourselves for the distance we have yet to go toward realizing our vision of a hunger-free community.

I look forward to seeing you on October 13th!

Kind regards,

Jean G. McMurray, Executive Director

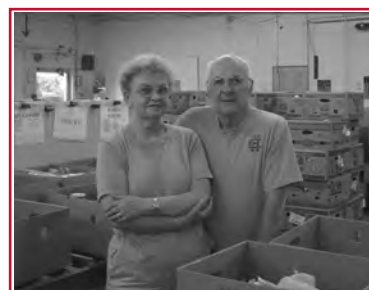
THEN... *"All the food that came to the Food Bank was sorted twice."*

AND NOW... *"Now we only sort once. Operations are more efficient."*

SOME THINGS STAY THE SAME...

"It's always felt good to volunteer at the Food Bank because we can tell that the staff really appreciates what we do."

Jack and Mary Lou McLaughlin, Food Bank volunteers since 1998.



"GOT FOOD?" A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF HUNGER IN WORCESTER COUNTY AT THE WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

On November 8, **"Got Food? – Creating a Hunger-Free Community"** opens at the Worcester Historical Museum. This innovative exhibit will tell the story of hunger relief throughout our region and take visitors back to the Poor Farms of 19th century Worcester County, the challenges of the Great Depression, the Victory Gardens of WWII, the Great Society, and the birth of modern Food Banking. It will also present the face of hunger relief today, and the challenges posed by the shifting dynamics of food supply and public policy.

"The Worcester Historical Museum is pleased to partner with the Worcester County Food Bank to tell the story—old and new—of the Worcester community's effort to relieve hunger," remarked Worcester Historical Museum Executive Director William Wallace.

A number of fun and thought-provoking components include a "Reverse Food Drive". The first 1,000 attendees will receive a can of soup to take home with them. The message will be at turns serious and hopeful, as the exhibit chronicles both the persistent need that exists in our community, and the outpouring of compassion in response to that need by diverse groups including the academic, hunger-relief, and faith-based communities.

WCFB board member Ken Crater notes that "in creating this exhibit at the 25th Anniversary of the Food Bank, we acknowledge the long history of hunger relief efforts in New England. By working to strengthen the Worcester County Food Bank and its many partners throughout the county, we're bringing a new level of effectiveness to a social issue which is very old indeed."

The exhibit will run through March 15.



THEN... *"The Food Bank has evolved over the years to meet the changing needs of our community."*

AND NOW... *"In the last few years, the Food Bank has been working hard to deal with hunger in a systemic way, treating it as a symptom of deeper problems."*

"THE FOOD BANK" is the only organization working to bring the agencies in our area together, creating a forum for us to share ideas. The Partners in a Vision conference is a great example of the opportunities the Food Bank offers for agency networking."

Ron Charette, of the South Worcester Neighborhood Center, who helped found the Food Bank in 1982

REFLECTIONS OF A BOARD MEMBER



"The Food Bank back in 1995 was a very different place. We have the same conference room table as back then, but that is about it!"

The building was very cramped, we had 8 or 9 employees, and the Board of Directors was much more involved in making operational decisions. It was a 20,000 square foot building on Route 20. Pallets were stacked everywhere and we were always looking for a new home.

The Food Bank has evolved in the past 10 years since the move to our current location on Route 9. The sources of donated food have changed and we have positioned the Food Bank to adapt to those changes. We have also expanded our capability to new programs like providing meals for Kids Café programs and the Second Serving Food Rescue Program, and we built the Community Kitchen.

The board has evolved from dealing with operational issues, day to day things, to a more strategic focus, to identify trends in the food industry, the community, as well as best practices in food banking and provide the staff with the tools to make things happen.

The biggest change over the past few years has been our move to 'own' the hunger issue in our communities, provide leadership, and be the glue that strengthens the bond between the sources of food and our partner agencies. The mission statement says it all."

David Carpenter, Current Treasurer & Past President Board of Directors since 1994

THEN... *"There were only seven of us on the staff 15 years ago. The only truck we had was an old, used bookmobile van donated by a local library."*

AND NOW... *"We've more than doubled in space and staff, and we now have two large trucks on the road for pickups and deliveries every week."*

SOME THINGS STAY THE SAME... *"Now, as then, the Food Bank always had generous donors and volunteers who helped the Food Bank."*

Elaine Lee, Food Bank Office Manager



Gene Fredin, Operations Associate, and **Elaine Lee**, Office Manager, Food Bank staff members since 1992