

LOAVES AND FISHES

FOOD, CLOTHING, AND COMMUNITY

Quarter Four Report 2018

FOOD

In 2018, Loaves and Fishes made a promise to provide 5-8 offerings of produce every week in our bags of groceries that we give out. We did this for two reasons. The first being that we know that high blood pressure, diabetes, and obesity are on the rise and that one the best ways to combat these is to eat healthy whole foods. Secondly, we ran a survey int he beginning of the year to find out the preferences of our neighbors who visit with the idea to cater to those tastes. We can say that we have kept this promise over the year and from feedback we have received after the changes have been made we think that this pilot has been a real success in getting better quality food into the hands of our neighbors who need it most. We would like to thank our donors who helped us make this a reality.



In the fourth quarter of the year we gave out 3,796 bags of groceries. The quality of the bags of groceries continues to improve, as we have continued to partner with the CT Foodbank, Carbonella Desarbo distributors, and St. George's Church in Guilford who have all provided us with lots of great produce. We are hoping that we not sustain the gains in quality food, but continue to work with partners and our donors on how to increase how much fresh produce we can share with our neighbors.

CLOTHING

Joan's Closet was packed full of clothing donations this quarter. The holiday season really got people in the mood for giving and we were able to successfully distribute over 10,000 pieces of clothing to our neighbors. We also had several donors who went out and bought new items for the clothing closet. One donor brought in bags and bags of brand-new kid's coats. Another bought over 100 scarves, hats, and gloves. We were also able to give out some great Christmas present the week before the holiday. Through our group of dedicated volunteers during the week we were able to get all of these donations sorted and ready for the closet.



We have also been able to partner with Project Period, a group of students at Yale who have been donating disposable menstrual products to the clothing closet. These have been a very welcome addition and we have been able to distribute over 300 packs in the past few months.

CURRENT NEEDS

Winter has finally come and with the cold comes a lot of our neighbors who need warm and dry clothing to help them be able to get to and from school, work, and errands. Many of the neighbors who visit us are taking public transportation or walking to get to their destination and so good layers are even more important. We are always looking for seasonal men's clothing that will help our neighbors out. We specifically need coats, socks, gloves, pants, and hats. We do ask that if you have Spring and Summer clothing that you would like to donate that you save that until the appropriate season. We only have a limited amount of space and cannot store much clothing.

The best way to support the food pantry is to donate to Loaves and Fishes, info is on the right of this page. The reason for this is that we are able to use our partnership with food distributors and the CT Foodbank to procure food at a greatly reduced cost comparatively to the grocery stores. While we appreciate any help that we can get, large donations of canned goods cause us to have to spend time sorting them when we can receive pallets of canned of the same item that allow us to distribute food equitably and efficiently.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

2018 was a year that was filled with growth and change at Loaves and Fishes. We have been trying to work with the other emergency food providers who are doing similar work in the city in an attempt to share resources and best practices so that we can provide the best service possible to our neighbors. We have also been looking to our neighbors to name the needs that they have and attempt to meet those needs. We grew, in terms of number of bags of groceries and pieces of clothing given out at a substantial rate and we think that we will continue to grow at a similar rate in 2019. Hopefully, we can meet the need with more volunteers and support from you all.

This past week I was talking to one of our neighbors who frequently comes who is a senior widow living in Fair Haven. She was telling me about how she was worried about the government shutdown impacting her benefits and her ability to survive. The uncertainty of facing her day to day expenses without government assistance had clearly rattled her and she felt like she had nowhere to turn to. I spent a few minutes with her brainstorming possible fixes to her potential issues and she asked me to pray for her. I hope that all of you will join me in keeping her and all of neighbors in your thoughts as being poor becomes harder every day.

Please visit our website www.loavesandfishesnh.com for more information about Loaves and Fishes, how to meet and meet the needs of our neighbors, and food insecurity in New Haven.

Loaves and Fishes

St. Paul and St. James Episcopal Church

57 Olive Street New Haven, CT

(203) 562-2691

info@loavesandfishesnh.com

MEN'S CLOTHING



Please donate online at
loavesandfishesnh.com

or send donations to

Loaves and Fishes

57 Olive Street

New Haven, CT

06511