NORWELL, MA

November 12, 2015

RESIDENTS PROVIDE FOOD FOR THEIR NEIGHBORS IN NEED, ONE COOL GREEN BAG AT A TIME

There’s a new way to help the hungry in Norwell. An organization called A Simple Gesture – Norwell is developing a volunteer based program making it easy for residents to jump in and help get a steady supply of donated food to the food pantry.

Nationally, the demand at food banks continues to grow. Down in Norwell, an often unseen but equally needy group of folks struggle to feed themselves or their children. The Norwell Food Pantry, run by Kathy and Alicia Tedeschi, provides what it can but lacks a consistent and reliable supply. That’s where A Simple Gesture comes in.

A Simple Gesture is a grass roots, systematic food collection program run entirely by volunteers. The concept is simple: local households sign up to be a food donor. They get a cool green bag which they can fill with non-perishable items over the course of two months, by picking up a single item for donation on each grocery run. On the second Saturday of every other month, volunteer drivers pick up the bag, leave another bag in its place and take the full bag to the food pantry. Simply stated, it’s a volunteer delivery service: it removes the uncertainty of “I wonder if the Food Pantry is open?” and makes it easy for people who want to help to participate.

This program has already proven successful in numerous communities across the country. The program was conceived in Paradise California about two years ago, and has been successfully replicated in several other communities from Oregon to the Carolinas. A Simple Gesture-Norwell was modeled on the same program. It is a non -profit 501(C)(3) charity and was established in September 2015 by two long time Norwell neighbors Karen & Neil Farmer and Geoff Gordon.

HOW TO JOIN

There are three ways to help

1. SHARE FOOD- Ask for a COOL, GREEN BAG. It’s estimated that for every 300 people who participate two tons of food per collection period will be collected every pickup.
2. INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS- Ask neighbors if they would like to join this program and get a cool green bag. Some have already headed up efforts in specific neighborhoods in town.
3. HELP TRANSPORT FOOD-Once every 2 months, on the second Saturday, help pick up the cool green bags and deliver to the food pantry.

Over 60 residents have signed up and gotten their cool green bags in the first week after launching the program, and in ten days over 80 are volunteering. The goal is to have 300 homes participate, expected soon after the first pick up in January.

CONTACT US

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