

Chinese Americans' food donation helps less fortunate

Help to stock pantry at Salvation Army in Ansonia

By Patricia Villers

Photos by Sharon Voroshak, Wenbing Du and Patricia Villers

ANSONIA - People helping people.

It may sound trite but in today's new reality it takes on special meaning.

On Monday I witnessed a heartwarming demonstration of caring for others as a group of Chinese Americans donated food for the less fortunate in our community.



The non-perishable food items were delivered to the Salvation Army Greater Valley pantry at 26 Lester St.

As members of the Corps' Advisory Board my husband Ralph and I always want to highlight the good work performed all year long by the Salvation Army.

A light snowfall added to the scene as Mayor David S. Cassetti, state Sen. George S. Logan, and a few others assisted the Chinese Americans carrying the donations into the pantry.

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I took some photos that I posted later that day on my [Valley Voice Blog](#) and we all dutifully kept our distance from each other.

Inside the building Salvation Army Majors Juan and Caroline Ramos - wearing gloves and masks - greeted volunteers as they placed cartons of food on the shelves.

As someone who is immunosuppressed I realized it was time for me to leave, so I have no photos of the pantry. Fortunately we do have photos inside the pantry taken by Wenbing Du, one of the volunteers, who shared them with advisory board member Sharon Voroschak.

This was a true team effort. And it was much appreciated.



For information about food distribution hours call the Salvation Army Greater Valley at 203-736-0707



Nonprofits form COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund

DERBY - In response to COVID-19, the Valley Community Foundation, Valley United Way, Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, and the Valley Health & Human Service Council have come together to establish the Valley Community COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.



The Fund will provide flexible resources to organizations that serve the Valley, especially to those who are disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and the economic consequences of the outbreak.

The Fund is designed to complement the work of federal, state, and municipal government efforts and expand local capacity to address all aspects of the outbreak as efficiently as possible.

It will serve as the repository for donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations with VCF serving as the backbone and fiscal agent.



Sharon Closius, VCF President & CEO, said, "Time after time, we are reminded about the strength and perseverance of the Valley. We are all in this together and, by working alongside one another, we can accomplish far more than what we could do individually."

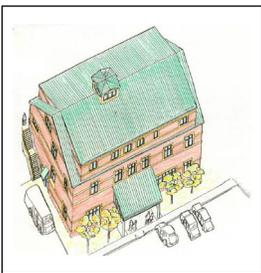
"We can effectively, efficiently, and rapidly deploy resources throughout the community."

David Kennedy, Interim President and Chief Operating Officer of Valley United Way, added, "Our United Way is pleased to be a part of this collaborative effort to help support the nonprofits in our community."



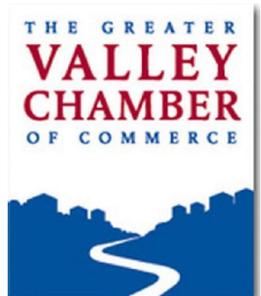
"This Fund will be a welcome resource for the business community and individuals who have been asking, 'What can I do to help the local community?'"

Bill Purcell, President of the Greater Valley Chamber of Commerce, said, "Corporate Philanthropy has long been a hallmark of the Valley community, and we will certainly make our member businesses aware of this new and timely initiative."



David Morgan, President/CEO of TEAM, Inc. and Valley Council Co-Chair, said, "This is a complicated time, yet it has never been more clear in how well we collectively come together to effectively respond and recover in this region."

Susan Agamy, Executive Director of Spooner House and Valley Council Co-Chair, said, "We are facing an unprecedented challenge in light of this pandemic, and the Valley community has joined together to respond quickly and effectively to address the needs and maintaining continuity of services to our constituents."



Through this collaboration, VCF, VUW, GVCC, and the Council, both short- and long-term support will be made as the Valley begins to cope with the results from this pandemic.

Together, these community partners aim to provide the necessary efforts to stabilize the Valley in the aftermath of this pandemic.

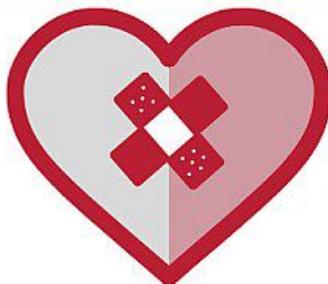
Closius notes "This fund was established together with our regional nonprofit leaders so we can efficiently, and rapidly deploy resources throughout the community and to nonprofits serving the Valley."

To support the Valley Community COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, visit www.valleyfoundation.org. Gifts via credit card are strongly preferred over checks to reduce processing time. Checks can however be made out to Valley Community Response and Recovery Fund and mailed to 253-A Elizabeth St., Derby, CT 06418.



This is from a press release by The Valley Community Foundation

THERE IS A SEVERE BLOOD SHORTAGE DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS.



Your Connecticut State Troopers are partnering with the American Red Cross to ensure that we take care of our community.

Please help us save lives.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2020, 9AM - 2PM



WHERE: CONNECTICUT POLICE ACADEMY
285 PRESTON AVENUE, MERIDEN, CT



SIGN UP AT WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

CHOICES available to area Medicare recipients

Assistance offered at Center for Disability Rights, Agency on Aging

WEST HAVEN - The CHOICES program helps older adults and other people with Medicare coverage understand their Medicare coverage and healthcare options.

CHOICES offers a number of free programs, as well as community outreach, and information and referral services on a wide variety of topics.

Carmen Correa-Rios is a certified CHOICES counselor at the **Center For Disability Rights**. She can be reached at **(203)-934-7077 Ext. 14**. Please schedule an appointment with her if you need assistance.

You can also contact the Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut which administers the CHOICES program in the south central region of Connecticut.

Appointments are highly recommended so that dedicated time can be set aside for you.



CHOICES program is available for the Valley towns of Ansonia, Derby, Oxford, Seymour, Shelton and 15 other towns in southern CT.

<https://www.aosacc.org/>

<https://cdr-ct.org/>



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