

**To: Grants Working Group, Presbytery of Genesee Valley**  
**From: South Wedge Food Program**  
**Date: February 21, 2018**

We are delighted to share with you the impact of the \$2,000 grant awarded to the South Wedge Food Program (SWFP) by the Grants Working Group. Thus far, in 2018, The South Wedge Food Program has provided groceries for **331 households**. These households included 350 adults, 110 seniors, and over 196 children (many parents shop for their children, but do not bring their children's ID's, so those children are not counted in our stats.) That's 31 households ahead of where we were on the same date last year. We expect that trend to continue throughout 2018.

Specifically, the grant has enabled us to provide the first three months of funding for a new part-time consulting director of the SWFP – The Rev. Katie Jo Suddaby. Here's some of what Katie Jo and her delightful spirit, leadership, and organizational capability has provided thus far:

**Building Connections:**

- With Artisan Church, Victor LLBean, and Southeast Catholic Community for food donations
- With Save the Girls, who will be donating 1000 tampons this week.
- With Mothers In Need of Others, who will share resources and refer clients.
- With a new volunteer recruited to build relationships with the Period Poverty Coalition and send supplies our way- Gayle Lech, OBGYN nurse and hospital administrator.

**Recruiting a New Intern:**

- Lindsay Kuhn is an MCC student. Besides doing daily client intakes and shopping, she will be taking over the creation of our Operations Manual. Lindsay says she loves the pantry and because it feels like a family and hopes to continue volunteering after her internship is over.

**Providing Volunteer Training:**

- To new and existing volunteers

**Planning Future Collaborations:**

- The youth group from Mosaic Church will join us for a special work Saturday on March 3rd.
- The youth group from Holy Spirit Greek Orthodox Church has volunteered to give the office a fresh coat of paint.
- A sorority from the University of Rochester will be hosting a letter-writing campaign in which the students will ask parents, friends, and teachers to donate to the South Wedge Food Program. They are donating all supplies and postage.
- Students in the ROCSALT pilot will work with pantry customers on a mural in the hallway where customers wait. This chalkboard mural will read, "I may not have a lot of money, but..." and allow customers to write what strengths they have that bring them hope.
- On March 20th, Katie Jo, will host the NextGen Philanthropists. Her presentation will be on the operations of the Food Program and on the smartest ways to donate to not for profits.

## Creating a Facebook Page

- Please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SouthWedgeFood/>

## Sharing Stories such as this one:

- Friday, a young man named David came to the South Wedge Food program for the first time. Before I signed him in on the computer, I heard his voice out in the hallway. "You can make it," he said to another customer as they waited, "God is gonna get you through this. Just don't give up." I poked my head out of the office and invited him to come in. As he gave me his ID, I told him I appreciated his great attitude and encouragement. "I was just homeless for a few months," he said, "I made some bad choices and have nobody to blame but myself. But I just got in my new apartment yesterday, by the grace of God, and I'm going to make it different this time." I told him I'd keep him in prayer and he headed toward the pantry. Before he left, he stopped back to ask me a question. "Do y'all need volunteers here? I'd really like to give back- you know, to show that I'm thankful." I told him absolutely. These are the people we serve every day- amazing, genuine, thankful people like David.

Thank you again, on behalf of the South Wedge Food Program,

Lynette Sparks



South Wedge Food Program volunteer Jamie Yost shows guests around the Emergency Food Pantry.



Volunteers pack boxes for Holiday Food Basket distribution.



Volunteers are proud of their work sorting and packing food for Holiday Basket distribution.





Katie Jo Suddaby, Consulting Director (far right), and volunteer Martha Cuthbert (center) share thoughts at SWFP volunteer appreciation event.