

ACKNOWLEDGING GOOD WORKS

Word of praise from Chestene Coverdale, during the Board of Education Meeting held on May 12th.

(Read the entire address on pages 2 and 3.)



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“Thanks to the monetary donations from the Sayville School District’s Employees Charitable Foundation, the Food Pantry has been able to extend our services to our recipients.”

“All of these achievements are a testament that it does *‘take a village’* to raise and educate a child, and to help them reach success, not only in school and in the community, but in the world. “

Chestene Coverdale, Director of the Greater Sayville Food Pantry at Sayville School addressed the Sayville Board of Education at the district meeting held on May 12th.

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Good Evening:

I wish to thank Dr. Schartner, Superintendent of Sayville School District for inviting me here tonight. I certainly want to acknowledge all members of the Board of Education for their hard work, dedication, and support to our young people. It is my sincere belief that our youth are our greatest resource!



As Director of the Greater Sayville Food Pantry, I have nothing but high praise and respect for the Sayville School District.

I can hardly image all the factors that are instrumental in the success of such a large family. It is the success of that large family that makes our community a better place to live.

The Greater Sayville Food Pantry has been operating out of the Gillette House for over 20 years. Our mission is to serve and help to self-empower people who are in need with great respect and dignity!

During the pantry's 20 years of service to our local communities, the Sayville School District has been one of our greatest supporters.

When I say the Sayville School District, *I mean the students, parents, staff, and administrators.*

- **Let me share with you some of the many plans that the staff students, and parents from the three ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS have come up with to assist the Pantry. They have had many “Acts of Kindness,” “Food Drives,” “Humanitarian Food Drives,” and “Good Fellowship Food Drives.”**

The food collected during these three activities alone was enough to feed over 250 families (of five or more). That is with each family receiving three meals a day for two weeks.

- **Our young GIRL SCOUT TROOPS make appointments to come to the Pantry and bring food and volunteer in the Pantry during the days off from school.**
- **Our BOY SCOUTS leave “Brown Bags” on your doorsteps asking for a food donation for people in need. They later go back and collect the bags and deliver the food to the Pantry and to a local church.**

- The MIDDLE SCHOOL and HIGH SCHOOL have many different clubs and organizations:

There is the Anchor Club, the Tri-M Club, the S.W.E.E.P. program that just made a \$1,000 monetary donation to the pantry;

The Art Club, The Honor National Society, many sports teams, the Key Club, the History Club that makes monthly visit to the Veterans' Home;

The S.A.D.D. organization and the Interact Club: one activity that the Interact Club takes part in is the Salvation Army Bell-Ringing Campaign. They bell ring from the Saturday after Thanksgiving to the Saturday before Christmas.

All of these clubs and organizations offer many different services to the community, including food drives, coat drives, Christmas Gift Giving Trees, visits to nursing homes and Veterans' homes and many, many other activities.

These students are our future leaders of America! They share local and international understanding, they promote the importance of volunteerism, and they "PLACE SERVICE ABOVE SELF!"



- Last, but far from least, we have the SAYVILLE EMPLOYEES CHARITABLE FOUNDATION.

Each district employee had an opportunity to choose an amount of money to be deducted from their paychecks and deposited in the Foundation's Account.

Mike Dileo [former assistant principal at Sayville High School] spearheaded all the planning and organizing of the Employees Charitable Foundation. He waded through all the paperwork, the meetings, and the phone calls with great determination. He somehow knew that with the unity he had experienced while working in the school district, the Employees Charitable Foundation would be a success—and success has prevailed!

Thanks to the monetary donations from the Sayville School District's Employees Charitable Foundation, the Food Pantry has been able to extend our services to our recipients. We are able to assist with utility bills, *Stop & Shop* gift cards, prescriptions, rent, heating oil, bus vouches, summer camp at the YMCA, and purchase special food items for Senior Citizens.

All of these achievements are a testament that it does "take a village" to raise and educate a child, and to help them reach success, not only in school and in the community, but in the world. I close with a very special thank you to the Sayville School District's staff, parents, students, administrators, and Board of Education.

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