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Press Release

Ringling in the New Year: Food Pantry Finds Home in Mashpee

Willowbend Country Club Provides Helping Hand with Its Generous Donation of Space

Mashpee, MA, January 5, 2011: With the help of a recent donation of space from Willowbend Country Club, the town's community Food Pantry will be able to assist families in need.

"We go through a ton of food and the need has just grown, and that surprises a lot of people in Mashpee who proclaim we have enough pantries in Town," said Lynda Carroll, Executive Director of Upper Cape Helping Hands, Inc., formerly Mashpee Food Pantry, which now oversees operations in Mashpee and Sandwich. Upper Cape Helping Hands is also located at St. Johns Episcopal Church in Sandwich. "This was the best Christmas gift me and my volunteers could have received. We've been mobile moving food to and from Sandwich and from my van. It's been very difficult, particularly with the uptick in demand for the holidays for not just food but Christmas gifts for children."

The Upper Cape Helping Hand's pantry in Mashpee will now be located at 56 Bowdoin Rd, Unit 3. Botello Lumber Co, a donation drop-off center for the Pantry, is at the beginning of Bowdoin Road. According to Janet Amico, Administrator for UCHH, "We're known as the no questions asked pantry. A lot of people are proud and don't want to say 'I need help'. There are so many of our neighbors in a financial cunadrum right now, that if we can supply them with food for a week to pay their electricity bill that's a good thing for the Mashpee and Sandwich. A mass exodus of service workers and professionals would be devastating to the Upper Cape area, she added."

"Our long term goal is to establish a Food Bank for the Upper Cape and Lower Plymouth Country," Ms. Carroll said, referring to the challenge of actually getting the food from Boston or Harwich to the Upper Cape. In the meantime, we would really appreciate monetary donations as we retrofit the space in Mashpee and try to achieve our short term goals to stay mobile for those unable to visit the Pantry," she added.

For more information, please visit www.uppercapehelpinghands.org. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the One Carleton Dr., Unit 220 Mashpee, MA 02649

The Mashpee operations will be open to clients at its new location beginning January 17, 2011. Hours of operation will be 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and 5:00 – 7:00 p.m on Thursdays. For the weekends, Sandwich will opened Friday and Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. catering to working clients. The address of the Sandwich operations is 161 Main St. Sandwich.

For Release 9 a.m. EDT, January 5, 2011