



**Hamilton Township
CYO/Bromley
Neighborhood Center
Annual Report - 2023**



This report summarizes the programs, events and activities that have taken place at the CYO Bromley Center during 2023. This Center has played an essential role in improving the lives of men, women, children and organizations in Hamilton Township.

Office hours of operation-- Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm

Tom Mladenetz-CYO Executive Director

Patrick Hardiman- Center Director

Asia Williams - Front Desk/ Office & Program Assistant

Tom Valyo- (Part time)-Teen Center Supervisor & Mentor/ Evening Security (Retired Police Officer)

Lisa Lewis, Donna Valyo-(Part time)--Teen Center Mentors

ARC Employee-Building Maintenance--11:00am--5:00pm

1. Food Pantry

The distribution of no cost State & Federally funded and privately donated non-perishable & frozen food to needy, income-eligible families in the Township of Hamilton is provided through this program. Hamilton Township’s Department of Public Works provides the manpower to unload the monthly food truck delivery from the Southern Regional Food Distribution Center in Vineland, N.J. both for the CYO Bromley Neighborhood Center & the John O. Wilson Neighborhood Service Center. John Kilcoyne, a dedicated CYO volunteer, is a huge help with the monthly food deliveries and donated foods, sorting and organizing the foods.

We distribute monthly food packages to an average of **70-80** families per month.

A total of **222** families are registered for the food pantry, as compared to 207 last year. Due to the continuing effects from the pandemic and related job losses, the demand for assistance from the food pantry continues to grow.

In Spring 2022, we converted an underused, first floor computer lab into a much larger and accessible space that allows us to accept, store, and therefore distribute more food.

Month	Adults		Children	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
January	133	113	57	57
February	122	117	62	60
March	129	119	68	62
April	129	123	68	64
May	155	151	75	68
June	166	157	82	77
July	170	162	89	82
August	176	171	90	87
September	181	187	98	94
October	245	239	120	119
November	249	245	134	130
December	251	241	138	125
Totals	2,106	2,025	1,081	1025

Distribution days and hours for the Food Pantry are: **Tuesdays & Thursdays & the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 9:30 - 11:30 am & 2:30-3:30 pm.** (If needed, residents can make an appointment to pick up food in the evenings 6:30-8:30 pm from Tom Valyo of the Teen Center). Emergency distribution is made for individuals who may live outside of our area if a referral is made through a social service agency.

The Southern Regional Distribution Center, in Vineland, NJ, is our primary source of food for our food pantry. Additionally, we receive food and monetary donations from local schools, churches, civic organizations and individuals including:

ACME Food Store
Buzzetta's Festival Foods
Greenwood Elementary School
Hamilton Township Municipal Building
CWA Local 1042
Nottingham High School
First Commerce Bank
Katrine Stumbaugh
Dr. Brian Lavery
RWJ Barnabas
Knights of Columbus 6213
John Soss
Max & Danny Popkin
Studio Park
William Penn Bank
Saul's Funeral Home

St. Paul Episcopal Church
Keystone Engineering
Victor's Meat Market
Wawa
St. Vincent DePaul Church – SVDP Society
Hamilton Senior Center
Capital Health
DiPaola Turkey Farm
Larry & Kathy Pinder
Snipes Farm & Education Center
Girls Friendly Society
Mercer Street Friends
Sharbell Development Corp.
Sunnybrae Elementary School
Diocese of Trenton - Catholic Campaign
for Human Development

2. Teen Center

Our Teen Center, which opened in the summer of 2005, continues with 9 to 13 yr. old “pre-teens” & 14-17 yr. old teens, who utilize the center’s video games, with the Xbox, PS3, Xbox One & PS4 consoles. We also have a pool table, ping pong table, foosball table, basketball shoot game & air hockey table, along with various board games. Our average daily attendance is **20-25 teens**.

The Teen Center is designed to provide local youth with educational, recreational and social activities & has become a “safe haven” for Bromley neighborhood youth.

3. Computer Access

Hamilton residents have access to our computers from 9:00 am until 3:15 pm. The computer room was switched to the lobby as the computer room was converted to a first floor Food Pantry. The area has 2 computers, a networked printer and continues to be available for both adults and students. Uses include job searches, on-line applications, and career searches, e-mail checks, researching school projects or business topics and word processing.

4. Copy, Fax & Notary Service/Job Postings

Residents continue to use our copier and faxing services free of charge. In addition they are able to get documents notarized at no cost, and view our current list of local job openings.

5. Gateway Head Start

The Center continues to maintain and support the Head Start program which consists of two classrooms with 17--3 & 4 yr. old children. The program uses our kitchen facilities for daily breakfast and lunches. They also use the rear playground. Gateway continues to utilize the social hall for staff in-service training, local and regional meetings and learning activities. The Gateway Head Start rental payments are made directly to Hamilton Township.

6. Mentoring Program

Toshua Turner & Sonia Williams have continued with the girls mentoring program called R.O.Y.A.L. Mentoring (**R**eaching **O**ut to our **Y**oung **A**mazing **L**adies). They have weekly Wednesday night meetings in our upstairs community room (during teen center hours) with 5-10 teen girls in weekly attendance. They do crafts and other projects and the program continues to grow. The objective of this program is to help mold young girls into mature, inspired, successful young women. Their group volunteered during our Easter Party, Halloween parade, Thanksgiving Food Giveaway and also our annual Children's Christmas present distribution. The CYO has provided financial assistance toward enhancing this mentoring program.

7. Health Services

In conjunction with the Township Division of Health, the Center hosted COVID 19 and Flu Vaccine Clinics throughout the year for Hamilton Township residents.

8. Social Hall Usage

The Center is open most Saturdays, year round, for rentals including baby showers, birthday parties, anniversaries, meetings, community events, etc. Public Works employees cover the events and are paid through the rental fee. On Sundays, the Tabernacle Chosen Generation Church rents our space and is now in their second year for their Sunday morning church service.

9. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute

Our annual tribute to Dr. King was live and full for the first time since 2020 at Faith Baptist Church on January 11. Dr. Rashaan Monroe, Principal at Klockner School was awarded the Dr. King Spirit of the Community Service Award, and two High School students were awarded Spirit of the Community Student Scholarship Awards.

10. Summer Free Lunch Program

The Center was again a feeding site for the Summer Food Service Program through the N.J. Department of Agriculture. Mercer Street Friends was our sponsor for this program. Lunch was provided for **30** children from the Bromley neighborhood, Monday – Friday for 39 days. Karson Foods was the vendor that provided the meals. Mercer Street Friends also provided weekend food packs for the children on Fridays.

11. Summer Camp

The Summer Camp ran for 8 weeks from June 26th to August 18th. A total of 40 campers attended (5 to 9 years old). Daily activities included Arts & Crafts, music, outside play including sprinkler and playground time, free lunch / snack and more. Some special camp events included a Talent Show, Carnival, and much more!

12. Farm to Family Program

For the fourth straight year a 16 week Farm to Family Program took place from July 16th to October 26th. The CYO Bromley Center partnered with RWJ Barnabas and Snipes Farm to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to 20 families and also provided healthy eating and drinking education. The program addressed food insecurity at a much needed time.

13. Annual Easter Party

The Easter Party was held on Saturday, April 1st at the Center. 65 area children stopped by for pizza lunch, candy, prizes, and Easter basket, and a visit from the Easter Bunny!

14. CYO Bromley Neighborhood Clean – Up Day / Earth Day

On Saturday, April 22nd, the CYO Bromley Center held its 11th annual “Bromley Clean –Up / Earth Day”. With the help of volunteers, community residents, & the Hamilton Township Public Works Dept., the following areas were cleaned: the 1700 block of East State St., Adella, Victor, and Rosalia Aves., and Bromley and Farmingdale Parks. Dumpsters were made available by Hamilton Township and many residents were able to clean out their yards and basements. Park benches and tables were painted and flowers planted!

15. Spring Food Festival

The CYO hosted a Spring Food Festival for all Food Pantry clients on Thursday, May 18th. The festival included a free food truck lunch, additional monthly bag of food, and a \$25 food store gift card. Free books were also distributed. 80 Food Pantry members attended.

16. Halloween Parade and Party

The 11th annual CYO Halloween party was held on October 27th. 50 local children attended a pizza, costume, and dance party, with plenty of treats and fun!

17. Thanksgiving Lunch/ Turkey Giveaway

For the 22nd year we held a Thanksgiving Feast and Turkey Giveaway. This year the event was held in conjunction with a Thanksgiving lunch prior to the giveaway and we were able to feed 95 pantry members lunch and give them a turkey and sides to go, along with a \$25 food store gift card! The event was held on Tuesday, November 21st from 11:00am - 1:00 pm. This event continues to be one of our largest yearly events. This event was partially sponsored by DiPaola Turkey Farm, and many individual donors as well as other supporters.

18. Fall Food Festival

The CYO provided a Fall Food Festival to all Food Pantry clients on Thursday, October 5th. The festival included free lunch from a food truck, an additional monthly box of food, and a food store gift card. 75 Food Pantry clients attended.

19.Children's Christmas Celebration

The 21st annual Children's Christmas Celebration was held on Wednesday, December 13th from 5:30pm – 7:00 pm at the Bromley Center. Pizza and drinks were provided along with candy canes and Christmas desserts in a great Holiday setting with favorite Christmas songs playing. Before leaving each child received a present from and picture with Santa! Over 75 income-eligible children & parents attended! Toys were donated by Dr. Brian Lavery's office and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

20.WIC -Women, Infant, and Children Program

WIC is a public health nutrition program that provides food, nutrition education and community support for eligible women who are pregnant and post – partum with infants and children up to five years old. The Center opened its doors to Hamilton WIC in 2022 and they hold part time meetings throughout the year. This program is well run by Children's Home Society.

21.Community Garden at Bromley Park

A 12 bed Community Garden has been laid at Bromley Park! Twelve families from CYO Bromley Food Pantry are responsible for these beds year round to plant, grow, garden, and care for them. This is all possible through a joint partnership with CYO Bromley Center, Hamilton Township, Snipes Farms, RWJ Barnabas, and Sharbell Development coming together to help better the Bromley Community through this garden!

22.Grants

Through a \$10,000 grant from Hamilton Township the CYO was able to purchase a new freezer for our Food Pantry as well as five picnic tables and two benches for our playground, both fantastic facility upgrades! Several other grants were received to purchase food products for the Pantry.





