



**Hamilton Township
CYO/Bromley
Neighborhood Center
Annual Report - 2024**



This report summarizes the programs, events and activities that have taken place at the CYO Bromley Center during 2024. 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--11:30am--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 **80-90** families per month.

A total of **224** families are registered for the food pantry, as compared to 222 last year. Partially due to the lingering effects from the pandemic and related job losses, the demand for assistance from the food pantry continues to grow. We were also added as a "satellite site" with Mercer Street Friends Food Bank for a once a month pick up to bring additional food back to our pantry!

Month	Adults		Children	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
January	135	133	59	57
February	142	122	63	62
March	141	129	71	68
April	140	129	75	68
May	162	155	82	75
June	168	166	89	82
July	170	170	90	89
August	175	176	96	90
September	174	181	102	98
October	240	245	104	120
November	250	249	133	134
December	247	251	132	138
Totals	2,144	2,106	1,096	1081

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:

Grace St. Paul Episcopal Church	Andrew Jarzyk
Reynolds Middle School	Nottingham High School
Greenwood Elementary School	Marty and MaryAnn Flynn
Hamilton Township Municipal Building	Wawa
CWA Local 1042	St. Vincent DePaul Church – SVDP Society
Alberta Rowley	Kiwanis Club of Hamilton
First Commerce Bank	Capital Health
Eileen McManimon	DiPaola Turkey Farm
Dr. Brian Lavery	Larry & Kathy Pinder
RWJ Barnabas	Snipes Farm & Education Center
Knights of Columbus 6213	Girls Friendly Society
John Soss	Mercer Street Friends
St. Greg's Parish	Peter Burns
Tanya Beckman	Mercer County Education Association
William Anthony Haneman	Zonta Club
FEMA Emergency Food and Shelter	Sacred Heart Parish
William Penn Bank	Saul's Funeral Home
Stellaware	

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. In recent years, 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 and computer room 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 Tanner leads the R.O.Y.A.L. Mentoring (**Reaching Out to our Young Amarizing Ladies**). They have weekly Thursday night meetings (during teen center hours) with 8-12 teen and pre-teens girls in weekly attendance. They do crafts and other projects and the program continues to grow with an Open House to showcase the program in October. 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 Party, 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 third year for their Sunday morning church service, and once a month on Saturday evenings.

9. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute

Our annual tribute to Dr. King was once again held at Faith Baptist Church on January 11. Former Hamilton Township employee Janice Blakely – Williams was honored with the Dr. King Spirit of the Community Service Award, and three Hamilton 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 38 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 22nd to August 16th. A total of 45 campers attended (5 to 10 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, field trips, and much more!

12. Farm to Family Program

For the fifth straight year a 16 week Farm to Family Program took place from July 11th to October 24th. The CYO Bromley Center partnered with RWJ Barnabas and Snipes Farm to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to 15 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, March 23rd at the Center. 60 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 27th, the CYO Bromley Center held its 12th 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 2nd. 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. 75 Food Pantry members attended.

16. Halloween Parade and Party

The 12th annual CYO Halloween party was held on October 30th. 55 local children attended a pizza, costume, and dance party, with plenty of treats and fun!

17. Thanksgiving Lunch/ Turkey Giveaway

For the 23rd 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 Wednesday, November 20th 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 10th. The festival included free lunch from a food truck, an additional monthly box of food, and a food store gift card. 70 Food Pantry clients attended.

19.Children's Christmas Celebration

The 22nd annual Children's Christmas Celebration was held on Thursday, December 12th 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, and a very festive and energetic crowd was thrilled to attend. 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 Girls Friendly Society.

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! Education and Planting Days are scheduled 2-3 times a year for the gardeners!

22.Grants

Through \$8,000 plus in CDBG grant funds from Hamilton Township, the CYO was able to provide additional and upgraded programming for our Center! In addition, the CYO secured nearly \$10,000 in other grant funds to support the Bromley Center Food Pantry.





