Providing free clothing, shoes, toiletries, food and the “other necessities” of life for storm and accident victims, the homeless, the hungry, seniors, children and the other “invisible” children and adults in our midst with special needs.

(Your contributions make a world of difference to people who have so little. Each one has a story. Volunteers Pat Nuernberger shared this one with us.)

DONNA’S STORY

When Donna came through the door she looked uncertain. A middle-aged woman from Seaside Heights, she had been told about the Cupboard but said she wasn’t sure how it worked. Reaching into her pants pocket, she pulled out various cards to show the eligibility she thought she needed to prove, but I explained to her that an ID was unnecessary. I told her she could look through the clothing and other items in the bins and on hangers and take whatever she needed.

As it became clear to her that she was in a judgment-free zone, Donna began to tell me how difficult her life had become. She had lost her job earlier in the year when she needed to assume full-time care of her father who has both Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. Although she has a part-time job now and an aide to look after him a few hours each day, Donna doesn’t make enough money to cover all their expenses. She especially needed clothing for her father that would be easy to put on and take off, and she was happy to find sweat pants, front-opening shirts and socks for his feet “that are always cold.”

After she had found the clothing for him, I encouraged her to look at the women’s clothing. With a sad smile, she acknowledged that her jacket was getting threadbare. When she tried on a nice jacket in a flattering color and style, her eyes filled with tears of gratitude. When Donna left with the clothing, toiletries and food she needed, I reminded her that we would be happy to see her again in a few weeks.

Your Grandmother’s Cupboard offers a unique service to those who are in need. We are a warm and friendly place, and our sole purpose is to alleviate some of the deprivation felt by too many of our neighbors. Donna is just one of many, many people that we’ve been able to help.

Roslyn Plaza, 173A Rt 37 West, Toms River, NJ 08755 • (732) 240-0441 • YGCNJ.org
CLARK'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

The last few months have been busy ones for all of us here at the Cupboard, and they're sure to become even busier once summer arrives and the number of people coming to us for assistance increases. If you have a few hours to spare during the week, we would love to have you join us as a volunteer — and there's so many different ways that you could help!

For example, can you fold clothes, stock shelves or greet and assist our "shoppers" here at Roslyn Plaza? If so, we can use you!

Also, we're looking for volunteers to help with our "Band the Can" and "Mile of Money" fundraisers at various Ocean County locations. If you could sit outside a store for a little while to collect donations or help us in any other way, please call the Cupboard and let us know. Your support would mean so much to those who have so little. Please consider joining with us today!

Clark Paradise
Chairman of the Board

THANK YOU TO ALL THESE SPECIAL FRIENDS!

(Above) Joseph Mullane and Janet Ritchey presenting YGC President Michael Lehmann (center) with a $1,000 check from the Amboy Foundation. Gifts like these are needed to keep the lights on and the door open at our Roslyn Plaza location and we're so grateful for them!

(Above) Members of the Toms River South High School Lacrosse Team took time out from their busy schedule to stop by the Cupboard with this very generous contribution of canned goods for those in need. The concern and support shown by these girls was so greatly appreciated!

(Lefl) The first people to be helped by the Cupboard in 2003 were homeless people the county had temporarily housed in local motels. We’re still serving the homeless at motels today.
Among the first people helped by Your Grandmother's Cupboard in 2003 were those 20-30 homeless men and women living in the woods near Lakewood. Unable to find housing elsewhere, they slept in tents, cooked their meals over open fires and kept themselves warm with propane heaters. "Minister Steve" was the shepherd of this flock and worked hard to ensure that their needs were being met. Although their number has decreased over the years and they have moved to another location, there are still many people living in "Tent City" who need our assistance . . . and yours.

(Left) The welcoming sign outside the encampment painted by one of the residents.

(Right) Clark Paradise presenting Minister Steve with checks from Your Grandmother's Cupboard and Shepherd's Helpers. He put them right to work buying propane and food for his "grocery store" in the woods.

(Left) The supply tent with the water and other items needed to survive in the woods.

(Right) Some of the tents being used for shelter. Most have little space for more than one person and a cot.

In addition to the supply tent, Minister Steve has provided his flock with an outdoor chapel in which he ministers to their spiritual needs. This is a quiet place where the current residents of "Tent City" can find peace and inspiration . . . and hope for a better tomorrow.
HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE!

(Left) Judging from the big smiles on their faces, these two little girls at our Roslyn Plaza location are happy with the fuzzy slippers they’ve chosen. In fact, they wanted to keep them on when their mom was ready to go!

(Above) Whenever we arrive in Lakewood we’re always greeted by a crowd. On this particular day it included many men in need of work clothes which we were happy to provide.

(Left) Once the weather turns warm the number of people coming to our outdoor distributions increases significantly. A number of those at our last visit to Lakehurst had family members in our armed forces who are serving overseas.

(Left) A busy afternoon at the Paula Brown Soup Kitchen at the First United Methodist Church in Toms River. By the end of the day most of the bins were empty!

(Right) After bicycling several miles to get to a distribution site in Edison, a happy “shopper” leaves with a smile . . . and the items he needed.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIAIUMS

By sending a gift as a memorial or honorarium, you can remember or celebrate a special person or event while giving a homeless person or someone in need the chance to receive the “non-basic” essentials not available elsewhere. Unless you request otherwise, your name and the name of the person for whom the gift was made will be listed in our newsletter. Please use the envelope enclosed to make your donation. Thank you!

The 40th Wedding Anniversary of
The Rev. and Mrs. Paul J. Walther
Phyllis A. Lang

In Memory of: Doug Dorph
Peggy Mankey

NOTE: Clark Paradise thanks everyone who sent a contribution in honor of his 90th birthday. These wonderful gifts for the Cupboard totaled more than $1,000! This will help many more people in the weeks and months ahead.

Incorporated in 2003, Your Grandmother’s Cupboard is a 501(C)3 non-profit agency, is registered with the New Jersey Charitable Registration Commission and is a member of the United Way of Monmouth and Ocean County. In addition, we are grateful for the continuing support of so many churches, organizations, foundations, and individuals that make our programs possible.