MICHELLE’S STORY

When Michelle’s husband came home one night and told her the store where he worked was closing, they weren’t too worried. He had always been a good provider for his family of five, and they thought he would find a new job right away. But he didn’t. In fact, it took more than a month to find just a part-time position, and by then most of their savings were gone. It was then that someone suggested Michelle contact Your Grandmother’s Cupboard for help.

“I had very little and was able to get some needed clothes for my children, blankets, towels and a lot of important necessities,” she said later when asked about her experience.

“It really made me feel great. I was just so thankful there was someone out there to help us. It is really nice to know that in these tough times there are still people who care.”

(Above) President Michael Lehmann and Chairman Clark Paradise accepting a $2,500 check from Investors Bank in support of the Cupboard’s activities. (Below) The local Mothers of Multiples Organization presenting Clark Paradise with a check for $1,500. Both checks will enable many people who are struggling to survive receive the necessities that food stamps and other programs don’t provide.
CLARK'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

This past summer was one that few of us will ever forget! Between the earthquakes and hurricanes that occurred in North America and overseas, hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless and without the most basic of necessities. Thankfully, our government has been able to provide needed assistance in the wake of this devastation, and countless Americans have made additional donations to help those whose lives have been forever changed by these natural forces . . .

. . . but there are still others hurting as well. And these are the people we don’t hear or read about. The homeless living in temporary shelters. The newly unemployed. Families living paycheck to paycheck. The elderly living on fixed incomes. The sick and disabled. These are the people who have been turning to us for assistance, and we must continue to be there for them.

In this newsletter you’ll see some of the ways your gifts have been touching lives, and you’ll see some of the other ways you can enable us to reach out to those in need. If you can help in any 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

REACHING OUT TO OTHERS . . .

(Left) Knowing of the severe shortage of clean drinking water in Flint, Michigan, board member Paraic O’Reilly drove to Michigan this past summer with a truckload of bottled water that had been donated for Flint residents. This is just one of the many ways the Cupboard has been reaching out to people in need.
OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS:
MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS

(Below, left) While there’s nothing glamorous about toilet paper, it’s a “luxury” for those who need it but can’t afford it. Because it’s always in such high demand, we have to limit the number of rolls we can give out to 2-3 rolls per person. Needless to say, donations like this one are always appreciated and used right away.

(Below, right) Few things are as comforting as a warm, handmade blanket on a cold night. The beautiful afghan that YGC volunteer Frank Coleman brought us will help make the winter months more bearable for someone in need.

(Left) We can never have too many shoes! This woman and her son come to the Cupboard on a regular basis with a “collection box” of shoes in every size, style and color imaginable. Once their box is full, they bring it to us for our shoppers and start their next collection.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE MOST GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

Amboy Bank Foundation
Citta Foundation
Hecht Trailers
Investor’s Bank
Mathis Foundation
Pond Foundation
S. Rubenstein Family Foundation
The Jan and Holly Kokes Foundation
United Way of Ocean County.

Christ Lutheran Church (Whiting)
First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan
Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Toms River)
Kopp Electric
Mothers of Multiples
Rotary Club of Toms River
St. Paul’s Lutheran Church (Beachwood)
Thrivent
(Left) To look at our tables in the morning, you would never imagine how often they are used during the day by our volunteers and by those in need of clothing, shoes and the other on-basic “necessities” contained in the bins on our shelves. Once our Cupboard doors open, however, our tables see a steady stream of people, each with a story to tell.

(Right) Sometimes, our “shopper” is a single mom who lost her job and can’t afford to buy new clothing for her child. Other times, it may be a grandparent looking for an extra pair of pajamas for a grandchild when he or she spends the night.

(Left) When we set up our tables in Lakehurst we see a lot of military wives looking for items their budgets can’t afford. While their husbands may have no use for an extra pair of jeans or a fancy tee-shirt, they do! These women often come together to do their shopping.
WHAT STORIES THEY’D TELL!

(Left) These moms at our Lacey distribution site are busy looking for play clothes for their children. These items are always in demand since kids outgrow their clothes so quickly. It wasn’t long before these bins were empty!

(Right) While most of the people we see at our distributions are women and children, there are always men at our tables who are in need of work clothes, boots and gloves. Most of these men at our Phillipsburg site were able to find just what they needed.

(Left) While our Cupboard tables are usually covered by bins of clothing during the day, our wonderful volunteers also use them when wrapping presents for the holidays. Gifts donated by our very caring supporters put big smiles on a lot of little faces each year!
PUTTING SMILES ON CHILDREN'S FACES!

While their parents select the clothing, household goods and hygiene items their families need, the children are welcome to choose toys for themselves. (Left) YGC Chair Clark Paradise hands a little boy the basketball hoop he wanted. (Below) These children at our distributions in Lacey and Forked River are looking for toys they can bring home.

“I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do. It is the greatest of all mistakes to do nothing because you can only do a little - you must do whatever you can.” - Edward Everett Hale

We have 15-20 dedicated volunteers who help at the Cupboard or at sites we visit, but additional workers are always needed to sort and pack donated items and assist those people who come to us for help. If you have a few hours you can spare, please let us know. We can use YOU!!
HOW YOU CAN HELP US HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED

While the items we distribute are free to those who need them, Your Grandmother's Cupboard depends upon donations in order to make that possible. You can help a neighbor in any of these ways:

- You can make a monetary donation in any amount by cash or check.
- You can donate your time as a volunteer or as a member of our board.
- You can contribute clothing, non-perishable food or supplies.
- You can participate in one of our fundraising activities.
- You can designated YGC as the recipient of your United Way contribution.
- You can donate your car or boat.
- You can remember us in your will.

HEALTH, HYGIENE SUPPLIES AND PERSONAL ITEMS WE NEED MOST

- Clothing (for all sizes and ages)
- Shoes (for all sizes and ages)
- Blankets and sleeping bags
- Coats, hats and gloves
- Towels, washcloths, bars of soap, shampoo
- Disposable diapers, baby lotion and baby powder
- A&D ointment
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Combs, brushes and disposable razors
- Deodorant and feminine hygiene products
- Laundry detergent
- Toilet paper and paper towels

MEMORIAL GIFTS

A memorial gift is a meaningful way to remember and honor a loved one or special event while making life a little better for a less fortunate neighbor. We thank Midge Reicherdt for the donation she made in memory of Robert Peary.
ON THE ROAD AGAIN . . .

Our good friends at South Knolls in Jackson conduct a clothing drive for us several times a year . . .

. . . then help load the truck with the dozens of bags of clothing and household items they've gathered.

Once the bags are loaded, we bring them back to the Cupboard where other volunteers unpack and sort them for placement in the appropriate bins for our shoppers . . . and then the cycle begins again! We thank these wonderful folks for all they do!

Incorporated in 2003, Your Grandmother's Cupboard had been recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(C)3 non-profit agency, is registered with the New Jersey Charitable Registration Commission and is proud to be a member of the United Way of Ocean County. In addition, we are grateful for the continuing recognition and support of so many churches, organizations, foundations, and individuals whose support makes this program possible.