



Babylon Rotary Club Community Food Program

The Need - Hunger exists everywhere in America; it has no boundaries, affecting practically every community in the country, **including ours**. Those in need are often hard-working adults, children and seniors who simply cannot always make ends meet and may be forced to go without food or seek assistance at local food pantries and soup kitchens.

How We Help - The Babylon Rotary Club has supported local food programs for decades. In 2009, in response to an unprecedented and rapidly growing need, our efforts were greatly expanded, and today our Community Food Program is **the** primary focus of our club, helping to alleviate hunger in Babylon, West Babylon, North Babylon, West Islip and surrounding communities.

Monthly Food Drives - Each month we collect food from customers of local supermarkets and distribute it to local food pantries.



Daily "Bread Runs" - Several of our members and Friends of our club collect day-old bread and other baked goods from local supermarkets and deliver them to community soup kitchens, six days a week, 52 weeks a year.



Bulk Food Purchases - Once or twice a year, we invite volunteers from several local food kitchens to replenish their stocks from a food wholesaler.



Holiday Turkeys - Each year we supply several hundred turkeys to local soup kitchens during the holiday season



Special Equipment Purchases - Several times during the life of the program, our club has supplied major appliances for existing and start-up, local soup kitchens.



You Are The Key - Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers, and the outstanding generosity of local residents, Babylon Rotary continues to make a significant impact on the ability of food pantries and soup kitchens to feed those in need throughout our community.



Babylon Rotary Community Food Program

Financial Support

Who We Help

Church Food Pantries/Soup Kitchens

- Our Lady of Lourdes
- Our Lady of Grace
- Cross of Christ Lutheran
- West Islip Church of Christ
- St. Joseph's
- First Presbyterian of Babylon
- St Patrick's Episcopal
- United Methodist of Babylon

Other Organizations

- Gerald J. Ryan Outreach Center
- Mercy Inn
- Babylon Clergy Cluster

Fundraisers – Two popular, annual fundraisers provide major financial support for the Community Food Program:

- Runners and spectators from throughout the tri-state area are attracted to the scenic race course and memorable venue of the ***Babylon Village Classic 10K Dirty Sock Run***, the entire proceeds from which are dedicated to the Food Program
- The ***Wine & Food Expo*** treats guests to a wide variety of delectable foods from local purveyors, and an engrossing array of samplings from domestic and international wineries.



Grants – Suffolk County provides a substantial. annual grant that funds a majority of our bulk food purchases.

Individual Donations – Gifts from Rotary members, Friends and caring neighbors.

The Bottom Line – Each year, Babylon Rotary members and Friends donate over 2000 volunteer-hours to collect, purchase and distribute about 60 tons of food to local food pantries and soup kitchens. The combined, estimated market value of all Community Food Program contributions approaches \$270K annually. We have received countless accolades and thanks from grateful recipients, many of whom have described the program as “indispensible”, and that we are the single largest contributor to their efforts; for Rotarians, it’s truly another expression of “Service Above Self”

We Depend On You - We depend heavily on your continued support of our fundraising events, and on individual contributions for the funding that makes it possible to continue this vital program.

About Us - Babylon Rotary is a 50-member volunteer organization, one of the 32,000 clubs of Rotary International, comprising 1.2 million business and professional leaders, dedicated to humanitarian service and to help build goodwill and peace throughout the world.

Rotary projects address many of today’s challenges including illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water, and environmental concerns, while encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations. While Babylon Rotary participates in many, diverse, local and international programs, our signature activity over the past few years has been the Community Food Program.

Join Us - Our club meets Wednesdays, 12:15 PM at the Long Island Yacht Club , 307 Little East Neck Rd. So., Babylon, NY. Please join us for lunch any Wednesday to learn more about Rotary and our club, and visit our website: www.babylonrotary.org for a summary of current club activities, the latest issue of our club bulletin, Rotary links and other important information about Babylon Rotary.