



**Hamilton Township  
CYO/Bromley  
Neighborhood Center  
Annual Report - 2022**



This report summarizes the programs, events and activities that have taken place at the CYO Bromley Center during 2022. 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

Pat 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

**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 **207** families are registered for the food pantry, as compared to **188** 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	
	2022	2021	2022	2021
January	113	111	57	55
February	117	112	60	57
March	119	113	62	57
April	123	125	64	66
May	151	129	68	70
June	157	130	77	70
July	162	134	82	72
August	171	139	87	76
September	187	143	94	77
October	239	175	119	117
November	245	182	130	123
December	241	185	125	120
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>1,025</b>	<b>960</b>

Distribution days and hours for the Food Pantry are: **Tuesdays & Thursdays & the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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:

Wal-Mart	St. Paul Episcopal Church
Crockett Middle School	Keystone Engineering
Mercerville & Greenwood Elementary Schools	Notre Dame High School Community Service
Hamilton Township Recreation Department	Wawa
Traditions at Hamilton Crossings	St. Vincent DePaul Church – SVDP Society
Nottingham High School	Hamilton Senior Center
Community Foundation of New Jersey	Princeton Area Community Foundation
The United Way of Greater Mercer County	Saul's Funeral Home
Dr. Brian Lavery	Larry & Kathy Pinder
RWJ Barnabas	Snipes Farm
Bank of Princeton	American Local 1042
Lowe's Hamilton	Robbinsville Senior Center
Team 85	WinesnLiquorsHamilton
Hamilton – Robbinsville Rotary	

## 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 20--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 Turner & Sonia Williams have continued with the girls mentoring program called R.O.Y.A.L. Mentoring. (Reaching Out to our Young A amazing Ladies). They have weekly Wednesday night meetings in our upstairs community room (during teen center hours) with 10-15 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 modified again this year due to COVID and held at the Bromley Center on February 3rd. The scholarship winners and their parents attended along with Mayor Martin to have their scholarship checks presented. Tom Valyo was awarded the Dr. King Spirit of the Community Service Award! Tom is a retired Hamilton Township Police Officer, serving many years as Officer Friendly, and is currently the Supervisor of the CYO Bromley Teen Program.

## **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 44 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 27<sup>th</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup>. 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 Yoga.

## **12. Farm to Family Program**

For the third straight year a 16 week Farm to Family Program took place from July 7<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>. The CYO Bromley Center partnered with RWJ Barnabas and Snipes Farm to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables to 30 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 9<sup>th</sup> at the Center. 75 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, the CYO Bromley Center held its 10<sup>th</sup> 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 12th. The festival included a free food truck lunch, additional monthly bag of food, and a \$25 food store gift card. 80 Food Pantry members attended.

#### **16. Halloween Parade and Party**

The 10<sup>th</sup> annual CYO Halloween parade and party was held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. 65 local children walked the parade route and then came back to the center for a pizza and costume dance party, and treats to go!

#### **17. Thanksgiving Lunch Food Giveaway**

For the 20<sup>th</sup> year we held a Thanksgiving Turkey and Food Giveaway. This year the event was held in conjunction with a Thanksgiving lunch prior to the giveaway and we were able to feed 90 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 other donors as well as other supporters.

#### **18. Fall Food Festival**

The CYO, in partnership with Wawa provided a Fall Food Festival to all Food Pantry clients on Thursday, October 20th. 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, and this event was held in conjunction with the ribbon cutting for the Grand Re-Opening of the first floor food pantry.

#### **19. Children's Christmas Celebration**

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Children's Christmas Celebration was held on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:00pm – 7:30 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**

New to the Bromley Center this year was the WIC 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 meet the last Friday of each month. This program is well run by Children's Home Society.

**21. GRANTS**

Through a \$5,000 CDGB (Community Development Block Grant) grant the CYO was able to re-do the hardwood floors in the upstairs community room giving a new shine and finish to a much needed project in a hall that receives a lot of activity! A total of over \$30,000 in grants for the Bromley Center were received this year from the following sources: NJ Division of Family Development (CCIS), WaWa, and FEMA's Emergency Food & Shelter Program.





