

Race Against Hunger!

MAY 15, 2011 @ 5:00 P.M.



A year ago, The Charity Guild put on its first Race Against Hunger. It was a walk and run in D.W. Field Park in Brockton that attracted about 60 participants, many of them board members and their families.

But Nancy Gustafson, current vice chairwoman of The Guild's board, had a vision of a citywide anti-hunger event. So The Guild invited five other food pantries in Brockton – all of which are active in the Brockton Area Hunger Network – to join in an expanded event. It will be on Sunday, May 15, and it is shifting to 5 p.m. to accommodate workers at various pantries who are attending church on Sunday morning or getting ready to open. Like last year, there will be a looping 3.5-mile run, a 2.2-mile walk and a 50-yard dash for kids.

Proceeds of the race will be divided evenly among the six pantries: The Charity Guild, Catholic Charities South, First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Full Gospel Tabernacle, Lincoln Congregational Church and the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Edith Stein Church. Runners and walkers are invited to sign up sponsors who will make a donation in their honor to whichever food pantry they designate.

The race director is Dave Gorman, the longtime director of the Kids Road Races at D.W. Field Park. Mix104.1/WBMX-FM will play tunes and give out ice-cream samples. Mayor Linda Balzotti will speak, and various food suppliers and other vendors will participate. Trophies will be awarded to the first-place male and female runners and the top male and female finishers under 18.

The entry fee is \$15 if paid by May 7. After that it is \$20, with registrations taken at the starting line on race day from 3:30 to 4:45 P.M. Participants can register in person at The Charity Guild or at The Guild's newly redesigned website (at thecharityguild.org > Events > Race Against Hunger) where they can register and pay online or print out an entry blank and mail it in.

The race is formally known as the Mutual Bank Citywide Race Against Hunger in honor of the lead sponsor. Other major sponsors are the Bernardi Auto Group and the United Way of Greater Plymouth County. The Brockton 21st Century Economic Development Corporation has donated a Brockton Rox luxury box for 20 people, which will be raffled off. Christo's restaurant in Brockton and the EMC Corporation also contributed raffle prizes. Get more information about the race from Michael Molyneux, executive director of The Charity Guild, at (781) 784-1928.

MOTHER'S DAY

Present and past board members enjoyed a wonderful afternoon, May 4th, participating in this year's Mother's Day project with 128 second graders at the Manthala George Elementary School in Brockton. The students worked on a card with art teacher, Pegge Garner, at the beginning of their art class. This card was included in the bag with their gifts from The Charity Guild. Students chose their bag from an assortment of bags of pretty spring colors and filled it with a bottle of hand sanitizer, foaming soap, magnetic note pad, and pocketbook size tissues for their Mom.

Board members wrapped these gifts in bright paper and tied the bags with ribbon. Students were very excited to be giving these surprise gifts to their mothers on Mother's Day and more than one child exclaimed, "This is the best day of the year!" Board members agree.



PARTNERING WITH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN EASTON



The Easton Children's Museum has partnered with The Charity Guild for a second year to provide family fun and exploration for our clients. Families are transported from Brockton to the museum once a month for 6 months for a fun filled Saturday morning which will culminate in a pizza party in June. Twenty to thirty children and parents each visit enjoy themselves in a room full of dinosaurs, a hospital area with x-rays, an incubator, wheel chair and more, a puppet theater, trains and many more activities which captivate their imaginations. A special activity is always planned by the museum staff to incorporate the children's creativity. "This is fun!" "Mom, come see this," and "Dad, look what I can do" were often heard throughout the visits, along with many "thank yous." Hopefully, this true community partnership will continue for many years to come.

THE FEINSTEIN CHALLENGE TO END HUNGER

In March and April of this year, a multicolored tower of dinner plates could be seen on the Charity Guild Website, thecharityguild.org. They represented the progress of one of The Guild's biggest fund-raising campaigns each year, The Feinstein Challenge.

Every year The Guild and other food providers annually take part in the Feinstein Foundation Campaign to Fight Hunger. Alan Shawn Feinstein, a philanthropist from Cranston, RI, divides \$1 million among hunger-fighting agencies around the nation, as a partial match to the amount of money and food they bring in during March and April. The value of donated food packages is counted at \$1 each. The agencies share in the \$1 million in proportion to how much they raise. Last year 1,750 agencies and schools from all 50 states together raised \$230 million.

The Guild this year raised \$11,335 and took in 7,078 items of food, making a combined total of \$18,413, as of May 4, slightly ahead of last year. Trinity Catholic Academy in Brockton contributed 1,066 food packages. Other generous collectors of food were the Mary E. Baker School, Arnone Elementary School and the Manthala George Jr. School, all in Brockton, Bridgewater State College, the Brockton Public Library, Bridgewater Savings Bank, the Boys and Girls Club of Brockton and the Children's Museum in Easton. Among the generous cash donors were HarborOne Credit Union and Concord Foods, giving \$500 each.

OUR NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Charity Guild has formed its first-ever Advisory Council in order to get a better sense of how effectively it is fulfilling its mission. The goal is to get input from Charity Guild clients and community members who represent diverse populations. The board is scheduled to meet twice a year starting this June.

Its first four members are women who live in Brockton. Two of them, Kristen Bouchaiba and Blanca Rosario, are current clients. Ms. Bouchaiba is a homemaker, and Ms. Rosario is a personal care attendant with Cerebral Palsy of Massachusetts. Another council member, Cecelia Hatch, is a longtime Guild volunteer who also has been a client. The fourth member, Filomena Veiga, is a financial professional with Prudential Insurance Company and a board member of the Cape Verdean Association in Brockton.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, May 15th @ 5:00 p.m.
Race Against Hunger
D.W. Field Park

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 22nd @ 6:00 p.m.
Harvest Gala – Dancing With the Champions
Shaw's Center