And The Award Goes To…….

And the Borough Excellence Award for Queens goes to…..

The JCCRP! Congratulations!

With great honor, on February 11, 2015, the JCCRP accepted the award from the Food Bank of New York City for the best food pantry for the needy in all of Queens Borough. This is quite a distinguished award as there are over 600 food pantries in the New York City area. The award was presented at the New York Marriot Marquis Times Square at the 23rd Annual New York City Conference on Hunger and Poverty, bringing together leaders from the anti-hunger community, media and policymakers, New York City government, supporters and funders to look back at the last year of progress and move forward to close the Meal Gap.

As a Food Bank member since 2002, JCCRP was chosen for their resiliency and unwavering support shown to a community devastated by Hurricane Sandy, states Dr. Camesha Grant, Sr. Director for Member Services at Food Bank for New York City. They are an embodiment of their mission statement, which is to aid in meeting the needs of the impoverished members of the Rockaway Community by determining the nature and extent of their basic needs and methods of meeting those needs. In this capacity, they have made 144 referrals for services and have received 164 referrals from neighboring sites in their community for the services they offer. The pantry distributes food two days a week and is totally run by volunteers from the community. Prior to Sandy, they averaged 800 people monthly and since then they average closer to 2000 served monthly.

After Hurricane Sandy, Food Bank NYC gave the JCCRP a $25,000 grant, the “Food Bank Capacity Grant,” which was instrumental in helping them renovate their pantry and turning it into an essential part of servicing this community and its’ people in need. Additionally, Food Bank NYC is one of the JCCRP’s largest and most generous suppliers of food each month enabling them to provide to countless numbers of clients each month. And with today’s rising costs, making ends meet can be more than a little challenging, particularly when it comes to grocery shopping. That’s why the JCCRP’s food pantry mirrors that of a supermarket so that clients can browse the pantry shelves, and choose which food items they would like to take, mimicking real shopping experiences in supermarkets, giving the clients the dignity of choosing the grocery items that they would like to bring home for their families.

Food Bank for New York City has been the city’s major hunger-relief organization working to end hunger throughout the five boroughs for more than 30 years. Nearly one in five New Yorkers relies on Food Bank for food and other resources. Food Bank takes a strategic, multifaceted approach that provides meals and builds capacity in the neediest communities, while raising awareness and engagement among all New Yorkers. Through its network of more than 1,000 charities and schools citywide, Food Bank provides food for more than 63 million free meals for New Yorkers in need.

With the help of the Food Bank NYC and the TEN Tracker system, the JCCRP is able to further service their food pantry clients by connecting and referring them to more social services they may need and benefit from. Being that they are an all-in-one social servicing agency, they have vast knowledge and access to a multitude of social welfare programs which include a Client Choice Kosher Pantry, Career Counseling, Financial Counseling, Housing & Tenant/Landlord Mediation, Legal Assistance, Medical Insurance Enrollment, SNAP Enrollment and serve as a Far Rockaway Submission Site for benefits, to name a few. Many of the JCCRP’s clients that come into their food pantry may be in need of one or more of these assistance programs, and with the help of the Food Bank NYC and the TEN Tracker system, they are able to properly guide these clients in the right direction and get them services they need to thrive.

The JCCRP continues to service the community thanks to the ongoing support of the UJA-Federation of New York. The JCCRP is a proud beneficiary agency of UJA Federation of NY. The JCCRP provides a range of services for any clients who need assistance in social services or resource directing within the community. Please contact the JCCRP for further information; they are located at 1525 Central Avenue (entrance on Foam Place), Far Rockaway, NY, 11691— Call the JCCRP at (718) 327-7755—or visit them on the web at [www.jccrp.org](http://www.jccrp.org)*.*