

Helping Hands of North Plainfield and Somerset County

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**Your comprehensive local resource for
charitable organizations and provisions in
North Plainfield and Somerset County**

SOMERSET COUNTY



LIBRARY SYSTEM

**Compiled Cooperatively by the North
Plainfield Library and the North
Plainfield Forum**

**Last updated by the North Plainfield
Library -March 2014**

Food Provisions—Sunday through Saturday

Sundays:

- Bread giveaway **every Sunday** 9am-12:30pm (donations provided by Panera, ShopRite, Costco, and Eddy's) in the parking lot of **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Hot lunch served the **3rd Sunday** of the month at 2pm in the **Holy Cross Church Parish Hall**, 40 Mercer Ave, North Plainfield.

Mondays:

- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, weekly**, 5:30-6:30pm, **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- **SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **weekly**, 12:30-1:30pm, **St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 9:30am-2:30pm, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 12-12:45pm.

Tuesdays:

- **SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **every 3rd Tuesday ONLY**, 12:30-1:30pm, **St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays ONLY**, 5:30-6:30pm, **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **WEEKLY**, 9:30am-2:30pm, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **WEEKLY**, 12-12:45pm.

Wednesdays:

- **SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **weekly**, 12:30-1:30pm, **St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays only**, 5:30-6:30pm, **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays only**, 5:30-6:30pm, **United Reformed Church**, 100 West Main St, Somerville.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 9:30am-2:30pm, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 12-12:45pm.

Thursdays:

- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, weekly**, 6-7pm, **Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church**, parking lot behind church on Main St, Manville.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 9:30am-2:30pm, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 12-12:45pm.

Fridays:

- **SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **weekly**, 12:30-1:30pm, **St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- **Mobile Soup Kitchen from SHIP, weekly**, 5:30-6:30pm, **St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 9:30am-2:30pm, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly**, 12-12:45pm.

Saturdays:

- Packaged food staples are given out the **last Saturday of the month** at 384 Somerset St, North Plainfield (across from Quick Check). Sponsored by **The Lighthouse ministry of Calvary Chapel Stony Brook**.
- **The Somerset County Food Bank** supplies basic food stuffs and sundries to Somerset County residents (for eligibility, please see the Somerset County Food Bank entry in this brochure) the **last two Saturdays of the month**, 10am-12pm at the **Vermeule Community Center**, 614 Greenbrook Rd, North Plainfield. In Bound Brook, their food pantry is located at **Hope Church**, 519 East Main Street, Bound Brook, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM, every Saturday. In Somerville, the food pantry is located at **The United Reformed Church**, 100 West Main Street, Somerville, 10:00 AM - 11:30AM, every Saturday.
- Food disbursements sponsored by **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Saturdays of every month, 9am at the **St. Joseph Parish Center** 99 Westervelt Ave, North Plainfield.

Food Provisions, continued.

Holiday Meals

- **SHIP** provides full meals on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Easter Sunday at 12pm. Call 908-393-9545 for more information.
- **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** offers seasonal barbeques and Thanksgiving sit-down dinners. Call the Parish office at 908-756-3383 for more information.

Meals on Wheels

- Provides a full meal to people aged 60 years or older who are confined to their homes and unable to prepare meals without someone to assist them. For more information, please contact **Meals on Wheels of Somerset County, a division of the Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services** at 1-888-747-1122.

The Backpack Program

- Eligible to students in any Somerset County school who are on the free and reduced lunch program. Food is given to students in discreet backpacks on Fridays after school by the school nurses. Sponsored by the **Somerset County Food Bank**. Call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 for more information.

North Plainfield FISH

- A one-time food delivery service for those who need assistance following an emergency (fire, flood, extreme hardship, etc.) until they can make other arrangements. Available to North Plainfield residents only. Contact Holy Cross Church at 908-756-2438 for more information or to request a delivery.

Clothing, Toy, and Household Item Sales and Allocations

- **Working Women's Wardrobe**, sponsored by The Congregational Church of Bound Brook, provides clothing to women entering the workforce. Items are given out the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month**, 10am-1pm, at the Church on 209 Church St, Bound Brook.
- Clothing giveaways, sponsored by **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, take place on the **3rd Saturday of each month** at the Parish Center, 99 Westerveldt Ave, North Plainfield. Also, there is a winter coat giveaway in December.
- The **Emergency Clothes Closet**, sponsored by **SHIP**, gives clothing items to those in need that go to their center location at 87 East High St, Somerville. Please call 908-393-9545 for more information.

- **Betty's Basement Thrift Shop** has clothing and small appliances for sale every Tuesday from 2-4pm, Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm, and Saturday mornings from 9am-12pm. The shop is located in the basement of Holy Cross Church, North Plainfield, through the basement entrance on Washington Ave. These items are also given at no cost to families who have suffered losses from emergencies, such as fire or flood. Contact Holy Cross Church at 908-756-2438.
- **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul** holds holiday toy giveaways as well as distributes appliances, household items, toys, and stuffed animals to families re-entering society after staying in shelters.
- **SHIP** holds annual gift distributions in December. Call 908-393-9545 for more information.

Health Services

- The **Somerset County Food Bank** offers a Children's Vision Project which will pay for an eye exam and glasses for children referred to them by the school nurse. This project is in conjunction with Wal-Mart. Must be a resident of Somerset County and provide proof of ID and residence for the child. Contact Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 with any questions.
 - **The Somerset County Food Bank** allocates emergency funds one time only for people who have no insurance and have an immediate need to fill a prescription. The prescription must be verified by a doctor or social worker from a referral agency. Call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 with any questions.
 - The **Women's Health and Counseling Center** at 71 Fourth St, Somerville, provides quality health care to women who may not be able to obtain such services from traditional providers due to monetary, cultural, language, or other barriers. Their services cover primary and preventative healthcare, reproductive healthcare, STD testing, counseling, and treatment, HIV testing and counseling, and cancer screenings. Call 908-526-2335 for an appointment and office hours or visit their website at www.womenandhealth.org.
 - The **Women's Health and Counseling Center** is also the county's Sexual Assault Supportive Services, providing free and confidential 24-hour hotline and counseling services to victims of sexual assault and their significant others.
- The hotline number is 908-526-7444. Visit their website for more information www.womenandhealth.org.
- **The ARC of Somerset County** serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families from birth through the senior years of life via their numerous programs and services in Somerset County. Their offices are located at 141 South Main St, Manville, their phone number is 908-725-8544, and their website is <http://www.thearcofsomerset.org/>.
 - **The Somerset County Food Bank** runs the John G. Locke Pediatric Dental Program to help children of low-income families. Funded and administered by the food bank and approved by the Dental Society of Central New Jersey, the program's mission is to provide basic dental care and promote health education to eligible children within Somerset County. Eligibility is carefully determined based on county income scales and continually monitored throughout the child's enrollment. For more information, please email jglpdp@hotmail.com.
 - **The Resource Center of Somerset for Women and Their Families**, located at 427 Homestead Rd, Hillsborough, provides services for victims of domestic violence and their children and works toward the elimination of domestic violence. Emergency services available 24/7 by calling their toll-free hotline 1-866-685-1122. For other services call the office at 908-259-0003 Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

Financial Assistance

- The **Somerset County Food Bank** has money available one time only to pay for an electric or water bill when faced with shut off if children are in the household. Interested parties must be a resident of Somerset County with proof of residence. Call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 for more information.

Housing Services

- The **Central Jersey Housing Resource Center** provides low- and moderate-income families with the information they need to make informed and reasonable decisions to achieve their housing goals. Contact them at 908-704-9649 or on their website <http://www.cjhrc.org/contact-us.html>. Their office is located at 600 First Ave, Suite 3, Raritan.
- **Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity** builds modest, affordable housing for low-income families by a cooperative volunteer effort. Contact them at 908-704-0016 or on their website at <http://www.rvhabitat.org/>. Their office is located at **100 West Main St. Somerville** (2nd floor of the United Reformed Church). Office hours are 10am—5pm, Monday through Friday.

Borough Services

- The **North Plainfield Fire Department** has a program that includes checking the operation and location of smoke detectors, as well as yearly replacement of their batteries, for all senior citizens in the Borough. Each year around Fire Prevention Week the department visits all of the senior citizens on a running list. The names on that list are generated through the senior citizens club and other resources. It is not necessary, though, that you belong to their club in order to get on the list. During the visit to an individual's home, all smoke detector batteries are changed and older detectors are replaced. This program is at no cost to the homeowners. If you are a senior and interested in this program, please call fire headquarters at 908-769-2935.

Education Services

- **The Somerset Community Action Program** provides educational development and comprehensive childcare programs promoting the best interest of the child while incorporating the needs and aspirations of the family and the community. Some programs they hold are Head Start, Infant/Toddler Daycare, Summer Youth Programs, Job Training, and Financial literacy. For more information, contact Isaac Dorsey, Executive Director, at 732-846-8888. Their office is located at 900 Hamilton St, Somerset, and their website is <http://www.somersetcap.org/>.
- **The Somerset County Library System** offers home delivery of library materials such as fiction, non-fiction and large print books, CDs, DVDs, books on CD, and videos to our patrons who are unable to use the library in person, such as those recovering from a hospital stay, those in assisted living facilities, and the homebound. Contact the North Plainfield Library at 908-755-7909 and ask for their Outreach Representative to find out more information and see if you qualify. If you need materials for the blind or visually impaired, ask your Outreach Representative for more information about services from the **New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center**. You can also call the headquarters library in Bridgewater at 908-526-4016 ext. 115 or 117, or you can access our website at <http://www.somerset.lib.nj.us/new/outreach.html>.
- **The Somerset County Library System** is a partnership of ten libraries in Somerset County that offer a host of FREE educational, entertainment, and enrichment programs weekly for children and adults of all ages. Each library also offers free internet use, free WiFi, and free passes to local and nearby museums

Legal Services

- **Legal Services of Northwest Jersey** provides free civil legal services to low-income people, seniors, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Their office is located at 34 West Main St, Suite 301, Somerville, NJ, and their phone number is 908-231-0840.
- The **Somerset County chapter of the ACLU of NJ** holds a Free Legal Clinic in Meeting Room One of the United Reformed Church in Somerville. The clinic is held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) from 7-9pm. Their website is <http://www.aclu-nj.org/somerset>, and their contact email is somersetchapter@aclu-nj.org.

Childcare Assistance

- **Community Childcare Solutions** is a resource and referral agency that offers help finding childcare, help paying for childcare, downloadable forms on their website, training for potential childcare providers, parent education, and much more. Contact them through their extremely informative website www.communitychildcaresolutions.org or contact their Somerville office at 92 East Main Street, Suite 304, Somerville, NJ 08876, or by phone: 908-927-0869.

Organization Profiles

Somerset County Board of Social Services

- **Financial Assistance Programs**
 - * Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
 - * Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - * General Assistance
 - * Medicaid
 - * Emergency Assistance
- **Services**
 - * Adult Protective Services
 - * Home Health Aide Services
 - * Child Support
 - * Housing Assistance
 - * Rooming and Boarding Home Services
 - * Family Planning

* Medicaid Transportation

Contact information

*Central Office: 73 East High St, Somerville, open Monday through Friday 8:15am-6pm, 908-526-8800.

*Field Office: 391-D Somerset St, North Plainfield, open Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, 908-561-9400.

Please see their website for eligibility information for each program:

www.socialservices.com.somerset.nj.us.

Organization Profiles

SHIP—Samaritan Homeless Interim Services

A faith-based, interfaith, and community funded, assisted, and supported grassroots organization. No fees charged for any service.

SHIP's services are numerous and extensive. Please call 908-393-9545 or visit their website at www.ship908.com for more detailed information for each service.

- **Emergency Housing and Safe Refuge Services**
 - * Safe Harbor and Port of Refuge
 - * Bill's Place Café
 - * Housing/Shelter
 - Shelter Loss Intervention
 - Home Locator Services
 - Cooperative Service Plan
 - * Emergency Clothes Closet
- **Substance Abuse Services**
 - * Better Way Interim Counseling Services
 - Advocacy
 - Needs Assessment/Case Management
 - Referrals and Interim Counseling
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Screenings and

Referrals

- Group and Individual Counseling
- Information Services and Written Referrals
- Self-Help Fellowship
- Community Rap Group

* *Bridge to Success*

- a two-hour group meeting once a week for 8 weeks;
- a place to learn new information and make friends;
- provides opportunities to earn incentives for participating;
- provides dinner at each meeting;
- offers transportation for those in need.

• **Anti-Hunger Programs**

- * SHIP's Galley
- * Mobile Soup Kitchen
- * Holiday Meals
- * Tic Tock's Grove (Summer Picnics)
- * Brown Bag Lunches

• **Outreach Programs**

- * HIV Counseling and Testing
- * Street Outreach--Mobile Community Drop-in-Center
- * Disaster Relief

• **Medical Assistance**

- * Medical Clinic for the Uninsured
- * Eye Clinic

Contact information

- Central Office: 73 East High St, Somerville, open Monday through Friday 8:15am-6pm, 908-526-8800.
- Field Office: 391-D Somerset St, North Plainfield, open Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, 908-561-9400.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

A non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to helping individuals and families in the local community through works of kindness and generosity.

Services

- Mobile Soup Kitchen (sponsored by SHIP)
- Weekly bread and bagel giveaways
- Weekly food disbursements through our Food Pantry at the St. Joseph's Parish Center three Saturday's a month
- Clothing giveaways on the 3rd Saturday of each month

- Winter coat distribution
- Distribution of appliances, household items, toys, and stuffed animals to families re-entering society after staying in shelters
- Barbecues serving over 150 people
- Thanksgiving sit-down dinner serving over 100 people
- Holiday toy giveaways
- Disbursement of Christmas dinner bags to over 300 people
- Referrals for medical assistance and AIDS testing
- Financial assistance in special needs cases

Organization Profiles, continued.

Contact information

Call the Parish Office at 908-756-3383. Fax: 908-756-1155

Business hours are Monday through Thursday from 9am until 4pm, Fridays 9am until 2pm.

Come to a SVdP meeting—meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7pm in the Parish Center, 99 Westervelt Ave, North Plainfield. Please come at 6pm if you are in need of assistance.

Somerset County Food Bank

The mission of The Food Bank Network is to distribute food and to provide other basic human needs to those less fortunate in our community in a manner which recognizes and advances self worth and human dignity. Our method of distributing this food is through three food pantries, located in Somerville, Bound Brook, and North Plainfield, and a warehouse in Bridgewater. Our goal is to help create the opportunity for each person to become self-sufficient.

On a daily basis, we take emergency calls from people who need our help and are unable to wait until our Saturday pantry distribution. Usually, they are first-time people or people with special needs. These folks are referred to us from other county agencies such as the Board of Social Services, Food Stamps, Alternatives, Richard Hall, S.H.I.P., Catholic Charities, Group Home, United Way, Home-Sharing, D.Y.F.S., and Agape House. We also take walk-ins of people needing immediate help.

On their first visit, people are required to provide proof of identification and address and complete an application form. Our procedure is to review each application and to follow up with any necessary referrals to other agencies. We are then able to determine how best to assist a family or individual. Review of recipients is ongoing.

Services

- Food Pantry, last two Saturdays of each month
- Aid For Friends (feeding the elderly and homebound)
- Children's Vision Project
- Prescription Assistance
- Emergency Fund Allocation
- Sponsors of the Backpack Program for grade school students
- Back to School Supply Program
- Pediatric Dental Program
- Vision Care
- Diaper Program

Contact information

Contact Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 or email her at mariescan@verizon.net.

Mailing address: The Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Inc.
P.O. Box 149, Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Main warehouse location: 9E Easy Street (off Chimney Rock Road) Middlebrook Crossroads Industrial Park, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Telephone: (732) 560-1813
9:00AM - 2:30PM, Monday through Friday

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

The Somerset County Food Bank

Monetary:

Make checks payable to:

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County

and mail to:

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Inc.

P.O. Box 149

Bound Brook, New Jersey 08805

Food/Non-Food Items (please visit their website at http://www.somersetfoodbank.org/you_can_help.php for their list of necessary items).

Deliver to:

9E Easy Street, Bridgewater

(MiddleBrook Crossroads Industrial Park)

Monday to Friday between 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM

Volunteer!

Call 732-560-1813 or email Marie Scanell at mariescan@verizon.net and ask what you can do at the Bound Brook or North Plainfield Pantry locations.

SHIP—Samaritan Homeless Interim Services

Please visit SHIP's website at http://www.ship908.com/html/needs_list.html for the lists of items that can be donated.

Monetary donations can also be made online using Paypal® at the above website or by mail. Make checks payable to Samaritan **Homeless Interim Program** and mail to:

SHIP, 87 East High Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.

Volunteer!

Check out the volunteer section of our website for the application, http://www.ship908.com/html/volunteer_opportunities.html, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 908-393-9545, or visit our Safe Harbor—Port of Refuge, which is located at 87 East High Street in Somerville, NJ.

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities, continued.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Monetary:

All donations placed in the poor box at St Joseph's Church are designated to fund SVdP.

Donations can also be mailed to:

North Plainfield St. Vincent de Paul Society
c/o St. Joseph Parish Center
99 Westervelt Ave
North Plainfield, New Jersey 07060

*Make checks payable to **North Plainfield St. Vincent de Paul Society.***

Contribute to our Food Pantry

Non-perishable items may be brought to the vestibule of St. Joseph Church following Saturday's 4:30pm Mass or Sunday's 9:00am, 11:00am, or 12:30pm Masses. Items may also be dropped off at the Parish Center following daily Mass at 12:10pm, during business hours, or Saturdays from 9:00am until 11:00am.

Non-Food Items

Donate new or "gently used" clothing, toys, small appliances, and household items at the Parish Center during business hours or Saturdays from 9:00am until 11:00am.

Volunteer!

Contribute your time and talents at a food, toy, clothing giveaway, or other event. Adults, teenagers, local church and civic organizations are always welcome! Call the Parish Office at 908-756-3383 for more information.

This document focuses on the resources primarily available in North Plainfield, with additional information on Somerset County. The Somerset County Department of Human Services has an extensive guide to resources in Somerset County and the state of New Jersey. Go to www.co.somerset.nj.us/hservices or visit your local library for more information.

*Last Updated by
the North Plainfield Library
March 2014
Send any corrections, additions,
or comments to Lauren Ryan
Branch Director
North Plainfield Library
lryan@sclibnj.org*