



Contact: Meghan Palumbo
Director of Development
The Center for Youth
(585) 473-2464
mpalumbo@centerforyouth.net

Wegmans Leaders Refurbish Pantry for Young People at The Center for Youth

Renovation part of larger community service project to provide nutrition and budget education to current and future youth living in Center housing programs

Rochester, N.Y., July 13, 2015 – A leadership group from Wegmans, consisting of 10 managers from a variety of departments and locations, kicked off a community service project at The Center for Youth, beginning with renovations on the nonprofit’s new food and supply pantry, The Nook. New flooring, ceiling, shelves and lighting will be installed to maximize the space available to stock nonperishable foods, hygiene items and household supplies for young people living in The Center’s emergency shelter and transitional housing programs.

The Wegmans leadership group adopted The Center for its service project earlier this year when The Center launched an adopt-the-shelf program to collect donations for the new pantry located in a former storage area at its main offices (905 Monroe Ave.). Since April, donations to The Nook have served approximately 60 young people.

“With Wegmans’ help and the generous support of our community donors, we will increase our capacity to meet the most basic needs of our young people, while also providing them with skills and training they will need to live on their own,” said Elaine Spaul, Executive Director. “We could not be more grateful to the Wegmans group for its time, talents and commitment to the future of our youth.”

In addition to The Nook renovations, executive chefs in the Wegmans group are developing meal plans and healthy recipes Center clients can create using the foods available in The Nook. Later this summer, the group will provide cooking skills and grocery budget management training to staff and clients.

“We want to develop a sustainable program at The Center for Youth that will help teenagers live healthy lives,” said Amy Loss, a Floral Category Merchant with Wegmans who is



participating in the project. “Our hope is that by teaching them some basic cooking, nutritional and budgeting skills, we will empower them to make decisions that will have a positive impact on the rest of their lives.”

The Center identified a need for the food and supply pantry after expanding its services in the spring to include an independent living residence for young men. The Nook also complements The Center’s longtime runaway and homeless youth continuum of services, which includes an emergency shelter for youth, ages 12-18; the Chrysalis House, a maternity group home for pregnant teens and young mothers and their children; and transitional housing program for young men and women, ages 16-21.

The Nook has received significant support from the Rochester Female Charitable Society as well as several community groups and businesses.

The Wegmans group plans to complete renovations this week and will continue implementing the program-based components of its community service project through Sept. 5.

About The Center for Youth

Started by youth for youth in 1971, The Center for Youth delivers a continuum of services to homeless and runaway youth and families in crisis, including emergency shelter, transitional housing programs and Crisis Nursery, which provides temporary childcare during emergencies. The Center’s school-based, counseling and community awareness programs aim to educate, engage and empower young people. All services are delivered with the knowledge that youth want to and can take responsibility for their life choices. For more information, visit www.centerforyouth.net or find us on social media: Facebook (Center for Youth) and Twitter (@center4youth).