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BETHEL WOODS' 6TH ANNUAL FOOD AND ART SUPPLIES DRIVE STARTS JANUARY 15

Benefiting the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless

BETHEL, NY (January 12, 2017) – Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has recently announced its sixth annual food drive to benefit the **Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless**. The organization will seek to collect food items for those community members in need, as well as art supplies to nourish the spirits of children and adults alike.

Donations will be accepted starting **January 15th** until **February 12th** with collection stations located at the CVI Building in Ferndale, Kristt Company in Monticello, Peck's Markets in Callicoon, Livingston Manor, Jeffersonville and Eldred, and Jeff Bank locations in White Lake and Liberty.

Believing strongly in the transformative power of the arts, Bethel Woods spearheaded the addition of art supplies in order to give young members of the community greater access to important artistic outlets and expression. Darlene Fedun, Chief Executive Officer, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts said, "Research has shown that students who eat breakfast and students who study art have better attendance rates, a reduction in disciplinary problems and improved test scores. We think that having a healthy body and a healthy mind is incredibly important to the well-being of our community."

"These donations will afford children here at the Federation avenues to discover and express themselves through artistic and creative channels in ways we would traditionally not be able to provide." Said Kathy Kreiter, Program Administrator for the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless.

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has brought world-class entertainment and sell out shows to the region, but at its core is committed to giving back to the community and bringing vitality to Sullivan County.

Year-round volunteer opportunities include assisting with the operation of The Museum at Bethel Woods, supporting the organization's community and educational programs, and a variety of roles at musical performances and festivals. For those looking to get involved a **Volunteer Open House** is set to take place on February 10th from 9AM-12PM. Visit bethelwoodscenter.org to learn more.

Suggested donations include:

- Tooth brushes & toothpaste
- Travel soap
- Deodorant
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Baby food & formula
- Peanut butter
- Beans or canned vegetables
- 100% fruit juice
- Granola bars
- Pretzels
- Coloring books
- Watercolor paints & brushes

- Markers

- Sketch pads

- Pens & pencils

For more information on where to donate, call 845.295.2626 or email volunteer@bethelwoodscenter.org.

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About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities by presenting a diverse selection of culturally-rich performances, popular artists, and community and educational programming. Located 90 miles from New York City at the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, the lush 800-acre campus includes a Pavilion Stage amphitheater with seating for 15,000, an intimate 440-seat indoor Event Gallery, the award-winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and a Conservatory for arts education programming.

Through the in-depth study and exhibition of the social, political, and cultural events of the 1960s, as well as the preservation of the historic site of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, Bethel Woods educates individuals about the issues and lessons of the decade while inspiring a new generation to contribute positively to the world around them. The not-for-profit organization relies on the generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundations to develop and sustain programs that improve the quality of life in the region and beyond.

For more information please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org

About The Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless

Sullivan County has been severely impacted by these difficult economic times. We have the fourth highest child poverty rate in New York State, with the most recent census reporting 27.9% of children under the age of 18 in Sullivan County live in poverty. Our unemployment rate continues to be the highest in the region. Many young children and their families spend their days worrying where they will get their next meal.

The Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless addresses this concern. We operate the only soup kitchen in Sullivan County, providing breakfast and lunch five days a week to local residents. The number of people who need our help has increased in the past year. In 2013 we served 38,000 hot meals and another 44,000 take home meals through our soup kitchen's breakfast and lunch program. We also operate a food pantry twice a month where individuals receive canned food, cereal, juice, pasta and other staples. We try to provide fresh produce as well. This is all in addition to our emergency food pantry where individuals are given food on an emergency basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In addition to our food program we operate a housing and utility assistance program to individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

For more information please visit www.scfederation.org.