

## **SAVE OUR STEPNEY ORGANIZES THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE**

**Monroe CT, October 23, 2009** — The Save Our Stepney Task Force in conjunction with the Town of Monroe Food Pantry has organized a Thanksgiving Dinner Collection Drive for Monroe families and is asking for your support by donating a bag of non-perishable food. The Monroe Food Pantry will package the bags of donated food and distribute 100 plus Thanksgiving dinner boxes that include all the ingredients including a turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

“With current economic conditions, requests by Monroe families for food have increased by 40% this past year” said Pam Nicotera, Monroe Food Pantry Coordinator.

“We will begin distributing Thanksgiving boxes on November 16<sup>th</sup> so every family that has registered with us will be able to enjoy a delicious meal to celebrate the day.” she said.

The Save Our Stepney Task Force is asking area residents to donate a bag of non-perishable items to include stuffing, gravy mix, canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, and other side dishes to feed a family of four. The Monroe Food pantry will provide a turkey, bread and other perishables to be included in the Thanksgiving boxes. SOS will collect the food bags for the Thanksgiving dinner boxes on Saturday, November the 14<sup>th</sup> on the Stepney Green from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

SOS has asked area restaurants to join in making the 100 plus Thanksgiving Dinner Boxes possible. “Our restaurant partners will ask patrons if they would be willing to donate a few dollars for the Monroe food pantry to purchase turkeys, breads, milk, eggs, desserts and other perishables to be included in the 100 Thanksgiving Dinner boxes”, said Lee Hossler, Food Drive Organizer.

“On the weekend of November 13-16, 2009 look for donation envelopes marked, “Thanksgiving Dinner Box”, with your dinner bill, when you dine at one of these fine participating restaurants; Roberto’s Restaurant, Jule’s Mediterranean Cuisine, El Coyote Restaurant, The Rustic Grille, Vazzy’s Osteria, 707 on Main Restaurant, Panino’s Pizza & Pasta, India Raj Restaurant, Sal’s Family Restaurant, Rivalry Sports Grille, The Smithy Restaurant, Carl Anthony’s Trattoria, Country Pizza Restaurant, Last Drop Coffee Shop, American Pie, Mr. Mac’s Canteen and Healthy Food Chinese Kitchen, all on the Stepney side of Monroe. Donation jars have also been set up at area establishments.” he continued.

The Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Connecticut will also contribute free Barnum museum admission coupons for the first 50 people who bring a bag of food to the Stepney Green collection site.

If you are unable to deliver your food to the Stepney Green, donations will be accepted at the Monroe Food Pantry, 980 Monroe Turnpike, Mondays from 2:00 pm to 5:00pm or Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00am to 1:00pm. Or call the Monroe food pantry at 452-3770 to make other arrangements.

Help the Save Our Stepney Task Force and the Monroe Food Pantry make this Thanksgiving a very special time for more than 100 families in Monroe with your food donation. For a list of participating restaurants or a listing of foodstuff to be collected, go to our web site, [www.stepneyct.org](http://www.stepneyct.org) and click on “What’s New”. For more information about the Saturday collection on the Stepney Green call Lee Hossler at 261-5702.