



WEST  
HAVEN  
EMERGENCY  
ASSISTANCE  
TASK FORCE

# Gleanings

The Newsletter of WHEAT, Inc.  
Fall 2000

674 Washington Avenue West Haven, Connecticut 06516 (203) 931-9877

## WHEAT's 25<sup>th</sup> Holiday Appeal

### Thanksgiving and Christmas 1975

WHEAT provides holiday food baskets to 32 West Haven families.. the baskets included 12 canned goods and a small frozen turkey – there were no toys for the children.

### Thanksgiving and Christmas 2000

WHEAT expects to provide holiday food baskets to over 600 West Haven families. The baskets include 20 lbs of fresh produce, pies, stuffing, a 15 lb turkey and a new toy for every one of the 800 children who come to WHEAT for their Christmas.

Over the past quarter century, West Haven and its neighbors have proved to be more generous and caring than anyone could have imagined that first Christmas in 1975. No one back then could have imagined we would still be providing holiday baskets, let alone to so many families. If you have been there, I know you will give; if you feel blessed in your life, I know you will give; and if, like me, you abhor the idea that anyone in our community should go hungry, you will give. Without you, there is no Thanksgiving, no Christmas, for hundreds of families.

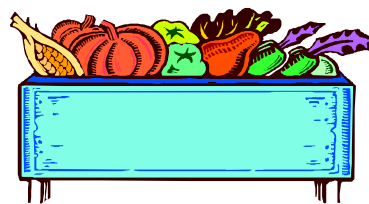
A woman told me she did not believe she was eligible for WHEAT because, after struggling for five years to support herself and her son on welfare, she finally got a job. "I take home \$98 a week!" she told me proudly, though she admitted it was very tough to put food on the table, and she wasn't sure what she would do at the holidays. When I tell people touring WHEAT how much food, money, time and toys are donated every year, their jaws drop. In anticipation of your generosity once again this special year, I thank you and wish you a happy holiday season on behalf of your neighbors in need.

A gift of:

\$25.00 provides holiday food basket for a family of two;

\$30.00 provides a holiday food basket for a family of four;

\$39.00 provides a holiday food basket for a family of six;



In addition to cash donations, which should be sent to WHEAT, 674 Washington Ave., West Haven CT 06516, WHEAT needs donations of turkeys, food and toys. Donations may be dropped off at our offices Monday – Friday, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. If you need to come by at another time, please call us first so we can arrange to have someone in the office – 931-9877. Thank you!

**Thanksgiving – donations need to be dropped off by Friday, November 17th**

**Christmas – donations need to be dropped off by Monday, December 18th**



♥ ♥ From the Director ♥ ♥



What a way to begin the new decade, the new century, and the new millennium! Thank you, all of you, who donated your beans and emergency Y2K supplies to our food pantry. For too many of our families, crisis and emergency are a way of life; I see that every day at WHEAT. As the mother of two very active children, I have a whole new appreciation of the challenges of parenthood, and cannot even fathom how difficult it must be to do this job of all jobs on your own.

Many of you read about the racism my family experienced this year – while it reminds us all that racism and ignorance are alive and well, I was so touched by all of your love and support. People called, wrote touching letters, and a woman I do not even know hugged me and told me she loves my children. I fear racism will always be a part of my children's lives. Knowing that the majority of people are good, loving and kind will help me and them triumph over it and maybe even help eradicate it someday.

Robbie and Sarah continue to keep me and all the wonderful volunteers at WHEAT very busy with their antics. Sarah refuses to be outdone by her brother, and Robbie loves to introduce himself, tell everyone how old he is, and find out where the snacks are.

To you and yours, we wish you a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season and New Year!

With love and gratitude,

*Therese Eke*

REMEMBER – WHEAT Owns a Freezer! Let's fill that freezer with turkeys! WHEAT also needs the following food items:



Canned vegetables  
Canned soups  
Canned fruits  
Peanut Butter  
Stuffing

Canned meat  
Tuna Fish  
Cranberry sauce  
Pie filling  
Cereal



Newsletter produced by:  
Judy Therrien - WHEAT Representative - First Congregational Church - W. Haven

**WHEAT INC.**  
674 Washington Avenue  
West Haven, Connecticut 06516

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