



WEST  
HAVEN  
EMERGENCY  
ASSISTANCE  
TASK FORCE

# Gleanings

The Newsletter of WHEAT, Inc.  
Spring 2000

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

## January 1975 – WHEAT opens and in its first month provides food for nine West Haven families;

## January 31, 2000 – WHEAT provides food for 45 West Haven families in one day.

So much has changed in the last 25 years, not the least of which is the need for WHEAT's services. Twenty-five years later, WHEAT provides not just food, but energy, shelter, clothing, referrals and access to free health care to over 1,000 West Haven families annually. Having its humble beginning in a basement room, WHEAT now occupies a 6,000 square foot facility complete with walk-in freezer and 40 parking spaces. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of this community. Your generous donations of food, money and time make it possible for WHEAT to provide a meal for only 15¢, and for the neediest in our community to benefit from the energy and dedication of over 40 volunteers.

### The People You Help Us Help

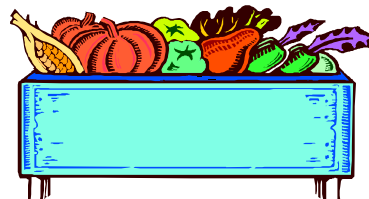
Despite the improved economy, WHEAT continues to see between 30-40 West Haven families daily. A combination of low-wage jobs without benefits, increased heating costs, and the lack of safe, affordable daycare and transportation all make it very difficult for many West Haven families to put food on the table. Too many children go hungry and cold, and too many elderly go without adequate food or medicine. You can help WHEAT by giving food, money and time. This new year, new century, new millennium, we ask you to re-dedicate yourself to those less fortunate – here is how you can help:

\$ 25.00 provides food for a family of three for a week;

\$ 45.00 can prevent a family's electricity from being shut-off;

\$100.00 will warm a family for a month;

\$500.00 will pay for WHEAT's grocery bill for an entire month – food for up to 3,300 meals!



Already this year, over 400 West Haven families have come to WHEAT for help. Each number represents an individual in trouble, a family in need, a tragedy. You helped Sophie (not her real name), who just had a heart attack and cannot afford both rent and groceries while she recuperates, and Mark (not his real name), the father of two whose grocery budget went to pay for oil this month. These are just some of the stories we hear at WHEAT every day. Without you, West Haven people in need would have nowhere to turn for help in a crisis.

Every penny, every canned good, every minute of your time donated to WHEAT makes the difference in the life of a neighbor.

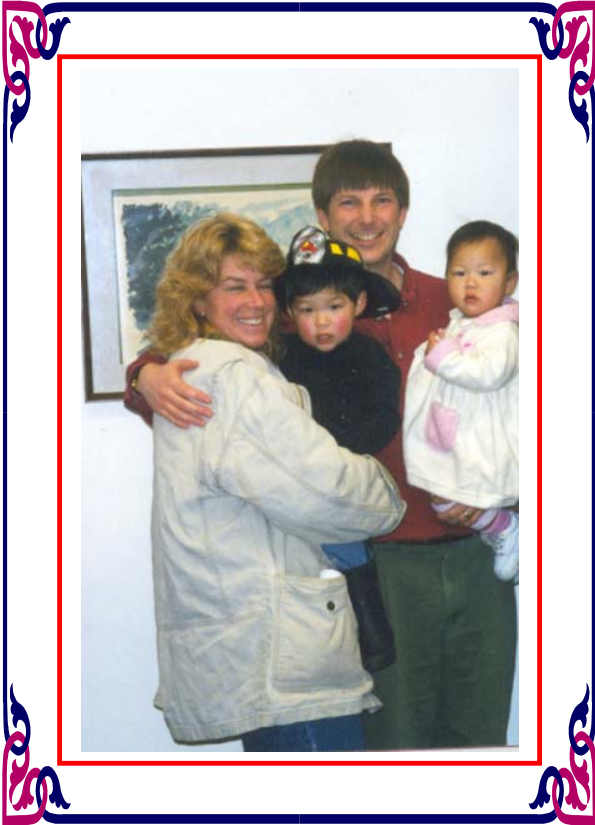
**For making a difference in West Haven for 25 years, we thank you.**



**WHEAT**  
**25 Years**



**"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"**



**On a Personal Note:**

*As many of you already know, my father-in-law Jack Barrett died just before Christmas. A generous, funny and compassionate man, I miss him. While I am thankful that before my father and my father-in-law died they both were able to know their grandchildren, Robbie and Sarah, I am saddened that Sarah and Robbie will never know them. Thank you to all of you who have been so kind and understanding about the difficult time my family has been through this past year.*

*Being a busy parent, (I had NO IDEA!) I am cutting back on my schedule at WHEAT. I apologize in advance if thank you letters reach you more slowly, and if I miss seeing many of you as often as it used to – I know you will understand how important it is for me to spend time with Robbie and Sarah, both of whom take great joy in exercising their legs and their willpower!*

*I wish all the best to you and yours in this year 2000, and thank you again for all your support.*

**WHEAT Food Pantry Needs:**

Despite the tons of food donated to WHEAT over the holidays, we were very busy in January, February and March, and our food pantry shelves are bare. We desperately need the following items.

- Pasta, pasta, pasta!**
- Pork & Beans**
- Macaroni & Cheese**
- Tomatoes**
- Rice**



Newsletter produced by:  
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