

Helping Hands

of North Plainfield and Somerset County

**Your comprehensive
local resource for
charitable
organizations and
provisions in North
Plainfield and
Somerset County.**

Compiled cooperatively by the
North Plainfield Library and the
North Plainfield Forum

SOMERSET COUNTY



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Food Provisions--Sunday thru Wednesday

Sundays

- Bread giveaway **every Sunday 9am-12:30pm** (donations provided by Panera, ShopRite, Costco, and Eddy's) in the parking lot of **St. Joseph's Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Hot lunch served the **last Sunday of the month at 1pm** in the **Holy Cross Church Parish Hall**, 40 Mercer Ave, North Plainfield.

Mondays

- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, weekly, 5:30-6:30pm, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **weekly, 12:30-1:30pm, St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building , **weekly, 9:30am-2:30pm**, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly, 12-12:45pm**.

Tuesdays

- SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **every 3rd Tuesday ONLY, 12:30-1:30pm, St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays ONLY, 5:30-6:30pm, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **WEEKLY, 9:30am-2:30pm**, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the Plainfield Salvation Army building, **WEEKLY, 12-12:45**.

Wednesdays

- SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **weekly, 12:30-1:30pm, St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, 1st and 3rd Wednesdays ONLY, 5:30-6:30pm St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays ONLY, 5:30-6:30pm, United Reformed Church**, 100 West Main St, Somerville.
- Food Pantry at the Plainfield Salvation Army building, **weekly, 9:30am-2:30pm**, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly, 12-12:45pm**.

Food Provisions--Thursday thru Saturday

Thursdays

- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, weekly, 6-7pm, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church**, parking lot behind church on Main St, Manville.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly, 9:30am-2:30pm**, 615 Watchung Ave, Plainfield.
- Soup Kitchen at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly, 12-12:45pm**.

Fridays

- SHIP's Galley** serves full meals, **weekly, 12:30-1:30pm, St. John's Episcopal Church** in the Church Hall to the rear of the building, 158 West High St, Somerville.
- Mobile Soup Kitchen from **SHIP, weekly, 5:30-6:30pm, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church**, 40 Manning Ave, North Plainfield.
- Food Pantry at the **Plainfield Salvation Army** building, **weekly, 12-12:45pm**.

Saturdays

- Packaged food staples are given out the **last Saturday of the month** at 384 Somerset St, North Plainfield (across from Quick Check). Sponsored by **The Lighthouse ministry of Calvary Chapel Stony Brook**.
- The Somerset County Food Bank** supplies basic food stuffs and sundries to Somerset County residents (for eligibility, please see the Somerset County Food Bank profile in this brochure) the **last two Saturdays of the month, 10am-12pm at the Vermeule Community Center**, 614 Greenbrook Rd, North Plainfield. In **Bound Brook, their food pantry is located at Hope Church**, 519 East Main St, Bound Brook, 10-11:30am, every Saturday. In **Somerville, the food pantry is located at The United Reformed Church**, 100 West Main St, Somerville, 10-11:30am, every Saturday.
- Food disbursements sponsored by **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul, the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Saturdays of every month, 9am at St. Joseph Parish Center**, 99 Westervelt Ave, North Plainfield.

Food Provisions--continued.

Holiday Meals

SHIP provides full meals on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Easter Sunday at 12pm. Call 908-393-9545 for more information.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul distributes Christmas dinner bags from it's food pantry. Call the Parish office at 908-756-3383 for more information.



Meals on Wheels

Provides a full meal to people aged 60 years or older who are confined to their homes and unable to prepare meals without someone to assist them. For more information, please contact **Meals on Wheels of Somerset County**, a division of Somerset County Office on Aging and Disability Services at 1-888-747-1122.

The Backpack Program

Eligible to students in any Somerset County school who are on the free and reduced lunch program. Food is given to students in discreet backpacks on Fridays after school by the school nurses. **Sponsored by the Somerset County Food Bank.** Grades K-6 call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 for more information. Middle school & High School contact school nurse, or Ms. June at ~~973-951-4307~~

North Plainfield FISH

A one-time food delivery service for those who need assistance following an emergency (fire, flood, extreme hardship, etc.) until they can make other arrangements. Available to North Plainfield residents only. Contact **Holy Cross Church** at 908-756-2438 for more information or to request a delivery.

Clothing, Toy, and Household Item Sales and Allocations

- **Working Women's Wardrobe**, sponsored by the **Congregational Church of Bound Brook**, provides clothing to women entering the workforce. Items are given out the **2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month**, 10am-1pm, at the church on 209 Church St, Bound Brook.
- Clothing giveaways and pamper pantry sponsored by **The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**, take place on the **3rd Saturday of each month** at the Parish Center, 99 Westervelt Ave, North Plainfield. Also, there is a winter coat giveaway in December.
- The **Emergency Clothes Closet**, sponsored by **SHIP**, gives clothing items to those in need that go to their center location at 87 East High St, Somerville. Please call 908-393-9545 for more information.
- **Betty's Basement Thrift Shop** has clothing and small appliances for sale every **Tuesday from 2-4pm, Fridays from 6:30-8:30pm, and Saturday mornings from 9am-12pm**. The shop is located in the basement of **Holy Cross Church**, North Plainfield, through the basement entrance on Washington Ave. These items are also given at no cost to families who have suffered losses from emergencies, such as fire or flood. Call 908-756-2438 for more information.
- The **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** distributes appliances, household items, toys, and stuffed animals to families re-entering society after staying in shelters. They also hold holiday toy giveaways. Call 908-756-3383 for more information.
- **SHIP** holds annual gift distributions in December. Call 908-393-9545 for more information.

Health Services

- **Children's Vision Project**--The Somerset County Food Bank offers a program which will pay for an eye exam and glasses for children referred to them by the school nurse. This project is in conjunction with Wal-Mart. Must be a resident of Somerset County and provide proof of ID and residence for the child. Call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 with any questions.
- **One-Time-Only Emergency Funds for Prescriptions**--The Somerset County Food Bank allocates emergency funds one time only for people who have no insurance and have an immediate need to fill a prescription. The prescription must be verified by a doctor or social worker from a referral agency. Call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 with any questions.
- **The Women's Health and Counseling Center** at 71 Fourth St, Somerville, provides quality health care to women who may not be able to obtain such services from traditional providers due to monetary, cultural, language, or other barriers. Their services cover primary and preventative healthcare, reproductive healthcare, STD testing, counseling, and cancer screenings. Call 908-526-2335 for an appointment and office hours or visit their website at www.womenandhealth.org
- **Sexual Assault Supportive Services**--The Women's Health and Counseling Center is also the County's Sexual Assault Supportive Services, providing free and confidential 24-hour hotline and counseling services to victims of sexual assault and their significant others. The hotline number is 908-526-7444. Visit their website for more information: www.womenandhealth.org
- **Individuals with Developmental Disabilities**--The ARC of Somerset County serves individuals with developmental disabilities and their families from birth through the senior years of life via their numerous programs and services in Somerset County. Their offices are located at 141 South Main St, Manville, their phone number is 908-725-8544, and their website is <http://www.thearcofsomerset.org/>
- **Pediatric Dental Program**--The Somerset County Food Bank runs the John G. Locke Pediatric Dental Program to help children of low-income families. Funded and administered by the food bank and approved by the Dental Society of Central New Jersey, the program's mission is to provide basic dental care and promote health education to eligible children within Somerset County. Eligibility is carefully determined based on county income scales and continually monitored throughout the child's enrollment. For more information, please email jglpdp@hotmail.com
- **Victims of Domestic Violence**--The Resource Center of Somerset for Women and Their Families, located at 427 Homestead Rd, Hillsborough, provides services for victims of domestic violence and their children and works toward the elimination of domestic violence. Emergency services available 24/7 by calling their toll-free hotline at 1-866-685-1122. For other services call the office at 908-259-0003 Monday through Friday 9am-5pm.

Financial Assistance

Electric and Water Bills--The Somerset County Food Bank has money available for one time only assistance to pay for an electric or water bill when faced with shut off if children are in the household. Interested parties must be a resident of Somerset County with proof of residence. Call Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 for more information.

Legal Services

- **Legal Services of Northwest Jersey** provides free civil legal services to low-income people, seniors, and people living with HIV/AIDS. Their office is located at 34 West Main St, Suite 301, Somerville, and their phone number is 908-231-0840.
- **Free Legal Clinic--**The Somerset County chapter of the ACLU of NJ holds a Free Legal Clinic in Meeting Room one of the United Reformed Church in Somerville. The clinic is held on the second Wednesday of each month (except August) from 7-9pm. Their website is <http://www.aclu-nj.org/somerset>, and their contact email is somersetchapter@sclu-nj.org

Borough Services

Smoke Detector Check for Seniors--The North Plainfield Fire Department will check the operation and location of smoke detectors, as well as yearly replacement of their batteries, for all senior citizens in the Borough. Each year around Fire Prevention Week the department visits all of the senior citizens on a running list. The names on that list are generated through the senior citizens club and other resources. It is not necessary, though, that you belong to their club in order to get on the list. During the visit to an individual's home, all smoke detector batteries are changed and older detectors are replaced. This program is at no cost to the homeowners. If you are a senior and interested in this program, please call fire headquarters at 908-769-2935.

Housing Services

- **The Central Jersey Housing Resource Center** provides low- and moderate-income families with the information they need to make informed and reasonable decisions to achieve their housing goals. Contact them at 908-704-9649 or on their website cjhrc.org/contact-us.html. Their office is located at 600 First Ave, Suite 3, Raritan.
- **Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity** builds modest, affordable housing for low-income families by a cooperative volunteer effort. Contact them at 908-704-0016 or on their website at rvhabitat.org/. Their office is located at 100 West Main St., Somerville (2nd floor of the United Reformed Church). Office hours are 10am-5pm, Monday through Friday.
- **Aging Out Program (Begins in 2018)**-- Designed for teens aging out of the foster system, this new program will provide safe transitional housing along with intensive support services, enabling participants to successfully transition to independence and adulthood. For more information please visit plainfieldymca.org/aging-out-program/, contact Ravenell Williams: rwilliams@plainfieldymca.org or (908)756-6060 ext #101.
- **Emergency Shelter**-- The Plainfield YMCA Emergency Shelter Program provides men, women, and families with the vital services to gain independence and achieve permanent housing. The program consists of 51 beds in a dormitory setting, case management services and a meal every evening. Our organization accepts referrals from social services agencies as well as walk in clients. The YMCA has a hotline (908-756-6061) which provides the client with one night of emergency housing after 5pm. Our Housing Program has a separate entrance for the safety and privacy of our residents. We are located 2 blocks from the train station and have a NJ transit bus stop in the front of our building. For more information about our housing program, please contact Theresa McCoy, Director of Housing Services at 908-756-6060 ext #103.

Education Services and Childcare Assistance

- **Enrichment and Public Internet--**
Somerset County Library System of NJ (SCLSNJ) is a partnership of ten libraries in Somerset County that offer a host of FREE educational, entertainment, and enrichment programs weekly for children and adults of all ages. Each library also offers free internet use, free WiFi, and free passes to local and nearby museums. Visit www.sclsnj.org or call 908-755-7909 for more information.
- **Home Delivery of Library Materials--**
Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) offers home delivery of library materials such as fiction, non-fiction, and large-print books, CDs, DVDs, and books on CD to our patrons who are unable to use the library in person, such as those recovering from a hospital stay, those in assisted living facilities, and the home-bound. Contact the North Plainfield Library at 908-755-7909 and ask for their Outreach Representative to find out more information and see if you qualify.
- **Materials for the Blind or Visually Impaired--**If you need materials for the blind or visually impaired, ask your Outreach Representative for more information about services from the New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center. You can also call the headquarters library in Bridgewater at 908-526-4016 ext. 115 or 117, or you can access our website at www.sclsnj.org.
- **The Somerset Community Action Program** provides educational development and comprehensive childcare programs promoting the best interest of the child while incorporating the needs and aspirations of the family and the community. Some programs they hold are Head Start, Infant/Toddler Daycare, Summer Youth Programs, Job Training, and Financial literacy. For more information, contact Isaac Dorsey, Executive Director, at 732-846-8888. Their office is located at 900 Hamilton St, Somerset, and their website is <http://www.somersetcap.org/>
- **Community Childcare Solutions** is a resource and referral agency that offers help finding childcare, help paying for childcare, downloadable forms on their website, training for potential childcare providers, parent education, and much more. Contact them through their extremely informative website www.communitychildcaresolutions.org or contact their Somerville office at 92 East Main St, Suite 304, Somerville, NJ 08876, or by phone at 908-927-0869.
- The Plainfield YMCA provides **quality after school programs**. Our curriculum focuses on Homework Support, Arts & Humanities, Science & Technology, Health & Fitness, Literacy, Socialization, Character Development, and Service Learning. There is a monthly fee.
North Plainfield Location: Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, 170 Watchung Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07060. Visit plainfieldymca.org/after-school-programs/ for an application.

Organization Profiles

Somerset County Board of Social Services

Financial Assistance Programs

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- General Assistance
- Medicaid
- Emergency Assistance

Services

- Adult Protective Services
- Home Health Aide Services
- Child Support
- Housing Assistance
- Rooming and Boarding Home Services
- Family Planning
- Medicaid Transportation

Contact Information

- Central Office: 73 East High St, Somerville, open Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, 908-561-9400.
- Field Office: 391-D Somerset St, North Plainfield, open Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, 908-561-9400.

Please visit their website for eligibility information for each program:

www.socialservices.com.somerset.nj.us

Organization Profiles, cont.

Plainfield Area YMCA

The YMCA of Plainfield is dedicated to serving the priority needs of the community. We provide housing, health and wellness, and emergency shelter. We also offer school-age childcare, summer camp, swim lessons, gym membership, recreation, and wellness services. Our programs provide a safe environment for children and teens to build leadership skills and improve social skills in a healthy, safe and thriving environment away from the inner city streets.

Services

- After School Programs
- Aging Out Program
- Emergency Shelter
- Senior Programs
- Summer Day Camp
- Teen Programs
- Workforce Development

Contact Information

518 Watchung Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060
908-756-6060
plainfieldymca.org

Organization Profiles, cont.

SHIP-Samaritan Homeless Interim Services

A faith-based, interfaith, and community funded, assisted, and supported grassroots organization. No fees charged for any service.

SHIP's services are numerous and extensive. Please call 908-393-9545 or visit their website at www.ship908.com for more detailed information.

Emergency Housing and Safe Refuge Services

- Safe Harbor and Port of Refuge
- Bill's Place Cafe'
- Housing/Shelter
 - Shelter Loss Intervention
 - Home Locator Services
 - Cooperative Service Plan
 - *Emergency Clothes Closet

Anti-Hunger Programs

- SHIP's Galley
- Mobile Soup Kitchen
- Holiday Meals
- Tic Tock's Grove (Summer Picnics)
- Brown Bag Lunches

Outreach Programs

- HIV Counseling and Testing
- Street Outreach--Mobile Community Drop-in-Center
- Disaster Relief

Medical Assistance

- Medical Clinic for the Uninsured
- Eye Clinic

Substance Abuse Services

- Better Way Interim Counseling Services
 - Advocacy
 - Needs Assessment/Case Management
 - Referrals and Interim Counseling
 - Drug and Alcohol Abuse Screenings and Referrals
 - Group and Individual Counseling
 - Information Services and Written Referrals
 - Self-Help Fellowship
 - Community Rap Group
- Bridge to Success
 - a two-hour group meeting once a week for eight weeks;
 - a place to learn new information and make friends;
 - provides opportunities to earn incentives for participating;
 - provides driver at each meeting;
 - offers transportation for those in need.

Contact Information

- Central Office: 73 East High St, Somerville, open Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, 908-561-9400.
- Field Office: 391-D Somerset St, North Plainfield, open Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm, 908-561-9400.

Please visit their website for eligibility information for each program:
socialservices.com.somerset.nj.us

Organization Profiles, cont.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

A non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to helping individuals and families in the local community through works of kindness and generosity.

Services

- Mobile Soup Kitchen (sponsored by SHIP)
- Weekly bread and bagel giveaways
- Weekly food disbursements through the food pantry at the St. Joseph's Parish Center three Saturday's a month
- Backpack food program for local middle and high school students
- Clothing giveaways on the 3rd Saturday of each month
- Winter coat distribution
- Distribution of appliances, household items, toys, and stuffed animals to families re-entering society after staying in shelters
- Pamper distribution on the 3rd Saturday of each month
- Holiday toy giveaways
- Disbursements of Christmas dinner bags to over 300 people
- Referrals for medical assistance and AIDS testing
- Financial assistance in special needs cases

Contact Information

Call the Parish Office at 908-756-3383. Fax: 908-756-1155

Business hours are Monday through Thursday from 9am until 4pm, Fridays 9am until 2pm.

Come to an SVdP meeting--meetings are held the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7pm in the Parish Center, 99 Westervelt Ave, North Plainfield. Please come at 6pm if you are in need of assistance.

Organization Profiles, cont.

The Somerset County Food Bank

The mission of The Food Bank Network is to distribute food and to provide other basic human needs to those less fortunate in our community in a manner which recognizes and advances self worth and human dignity. Our method of distributing this food is through three food pantries, located in Somerville, Bound Brook, and North Plainfield, and a warehouse in Bridgewater. Our goal is to help create the opportunity for each person to become self sufficient.

On a daily basis, we take emergency calls from people who need our help and are unable to wait until our Saturday pantry distribution. Usually, they are first-time people or people with special needs. These folks are referred to us from other county agencies such as the Board of Social Services, Food Stamps, Alternatives, Richard Hall, SHIP, Catholic Charities, Group Home, United Way, Home-Sharing, DYFS, and Agape House. We also take walk-ins of people needing immediate help.

On their first visit, people are required to provide proof of identification and address and complete an application form. Our procedure is to review each application and to follow up with any necessary referrals to other agencies. We are then able to determine how best to assist a family or individual. Review of recipients is ongoing.

Services

- Food Pantry, last two Saturdays of each month
- Aid For Friends (feeding the elderly and home-bound)
- Children's Vision Project
- Prescription Assistance
- Emergency Fund Allocation
- Sponsors of the Backpack Program for grade school students
- Back to School Supply Program
- Pediatric Dental Program
- Vision Care
- Diaper Program

Contact Information

Contact Marie Scanell at 732-560-1813 or email her at mariescan@verizon.net.

Mailing address:

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Inc.

P.O. Box 149

Bound Brook, NJ 08805

Main Warehouse location:

9E Easy St (off Chimney Rock Rd)

Middlebrook Crossroads Industrial Park,
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Telephone: 732-560-1813

9am-2:30pm, Monday through Friday

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities

The Somerset County Food Bank

Monetary:

Make checks payable to:

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County

and mail to:

The Food Bank Network of Somerset County

P.O. Box 149 Bound Brook, New Jersey 08805

Food/Non-Food Items (please visit their website at

<http://www.somersetfoodbank.org/you-can-help.php> for their list of necessary items).

Deliver to:

9E Easy St, Bridgewater (MiddleBrook Crossroads Industrial Park)

Monday to Friday between 9am and 2:30pm.

Volunteer!

Call 732-560-1813 or email Marie Scanell at mariescan@verizon.net and ask what you can do at the Bound Brook or North Plainfield Pantry locations.



SHIP--Samaritan Homeless Interim Services

Please visit SHIP's website at http://www.ship908.com/html/needs_list.html for the lists of items that can be donated.

Monetary donations can also be made online using PayPal at the above website or by mail. Make checks payable to **Samaritan Homeless Interim Program** and mail to:

SHIP

87 East High Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Volunteer!

Check out the volunteer section of our website for the application,

http://www.ship908.com/html/volunteer_opportunities.html, call the Volunteer Coordinator at 908-393-9545, or visit our Safe Harbor--Port of Refuge, which is located at 87 East High St in Somerville.

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities, cont.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Monetary:

Make checks payable to:

North Plainfield St. Vincent de Paul Society

(all donations placed in the poor box at St Joseph's Church are designed to fund SVdP).

or mail to:

North Plainfield St. Vincent de Paul Society

c/o St. Joseph Parish Center

99 Westervelt Ave

North Plainfield, NJ 07060

Non-Food Items

Donate new or "gently used" clothing, toys, small appliances, and household items at the Parish Center during business hours or Saturdays from 9-11am.

Printing - web service - paper/plastic bag delivery - other in-kind donations accepted

Volunteer!

Contribute your time and talents at a food, toy, clothing giveaway, or other event.

Assistance with stocking deliveries needed 4th Tuesdays 8am-10 am

Helpers/Drivers needed from backpack food delivery Fridays 12 noon - 2pm (school year)

Adults, teenagers, local church, and civil organizations are always welcome!

Call the Parish Office at 908-756-3383 for information.



This document focuses on the resources primarily available in North Plainfield, with additional information on Somerset County. The Somerset County Department of Human Services has an extensive guide to resources in Somerset County and the state of New Jersey. Go to www.co.somerset.nj.us/hservices or visit your local library for more information.

Last updated by

The North Plainfield Library

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Send any corrections, additions, or comments to

Christal Blue

Branch Manager, North Plainfield Library

cbue@solbnj.org