



For Immediate Release

Information: Jamie Berger
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ARF TEAMS UP WITH FOOD PANTRIES

Wainscott, NY March 15, 2010--During these trying times, local food pantries have seen an increase in foot traffic. More than ever these facilities are being used to help feed families in need. But who is feeding the family pet? The Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons, Inc. (ARF) recently donated over 200 lbs. of pet food to the Southampton, East Hampton, Amagansett, Springs, and Montauk Food Pantries to make sure the animals don't go hungry. Collectively these food pantries feed over 2,000 families a month.

Pets usually have a calming effect on family members, however under these economic conditions families can face added pressure with another mouth to feed. In an effort to feed the *entire* family, ARF has made pet food available to these organizations. "Often people deprive themselves of food in order to feed their animals. We thank ARF for this donation which will help ease the burden on families during these tough economic times." says Mary Ann Tupper, Director of Human Resources of the Hamptons, which operates the Southampton Food Pantry.

"We have seen our numbers triple in the past year and a half, with 100 new families signing up each month" says Gabrielle Scarpaci, Executive Director of the East Hampton Food Panty with a satellite office in Amagansett. "People don't have enough means to feed their families let alone their pets, so they are thrilled about the addition of the pet food. We just love ARF for making this available to us."

ARF has seen an increase in the past months of people who, as a last resort, have had to surrender their pets because they can no longer afford to care for them. This is traumatic to both the family and their pet.

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ARF Executive Director Sara Davison commented “We are grateful to Gary Beeber, Human Resources of the Hamptons Board Member, for identifying this need and reaching out to ARF to help.”

ARF has also worked with East Hampton Meals on Wheels and delivers over 100 lbs. of dog and cat food to the Shinnecock Indian Reservation each month.

The Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons provides for the health and welfare of dogs and cats on the South Fork of Long Island and Shelter Island through shelter and adoption services, medical care, spaying and neutering programs, community outreach and humane education. Founded in 1974, ARF is the leading animal adoption center on the East End.

Southampton Food Pantry:

Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 10am-12pm

Human Resources of the Hamptons, Hill Street, Southampton 631-283-6415

Contact: Mary Ann Tupper

East Hampton Food Pantry:

Tuesdays 2-6pm Windmill Village II, Accabonac Harbor

Tuesdays 4-6pm Satellite Location, Meeting House Lane, Amagansett 631-324-7195

Contact: Gabrielle Scarpaci

Springs Community Food Pantry:

Wednesdays 5-6pm Old Stone Hwy, East Hampton 631-324-4791

Contact: Dru Raley

Montauk Food Pantry:

Third Tuesday of each month 7-8:30pm (November-April)

Mother Theresa Outreach Center, South Dorset, Montauk 631-668-2425

Contact: Frances Ecker

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Animal Rescue Fund of the Hamptons, Inc.
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