

Volunteer Spotlight: The Nicholas Center



Every other Thursday, we give our clients fresh fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy, and pantry staples. The Nicholas Center is critical to making that happen.

Every distribution, The Nicholas Center participants pick up more than 1,000 pounds of food from the Feeding Westchester warehouse in Elmsford and deliver them to the pantry. Based in Pleasantville, The [Nicholas Center](#) provides Autistic young adults with opportunities for community engagement, vocational training, and peer connections. Community service is a big part of their week, and the Pleasantville Pantry is one of their longtime partners.

On a recent Thursday, four Nicholas Center participants and a staff member arrived in their van with tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, lettuce, broccoli, bananas, as well as pantry staples. They are glad to be able to help carry the heavy boxes of food into the pantry.

Many Nicholas Center participants have been going there for more than a year. They help pack meal kits filled with canned tomatoes, rice, spice packets, and recipes that are then distributed to food pantry clients. They all agree that it feels good to help people.

The pantry is an important part of their routine. "It's about giving back and helping the community," said Adam Arnold, The Nicholas Center's coordinator of vocational services. "Participants know the impact they are making." At least 30 Nicholas Center participants play a part in helping the pantry – packing meal kits, getting them ready to go in the van, loading the van. "We make sure everyone is participating in whatever ways they can," said Arnold.