



# Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet Inc.

*We are an equal opportunity provider*

# Newsletter

NUMBER 1

49 YEARS OF SERVICE

February 2026



## Chairperson's Column

Grant Rogers

A lot has happened since the September 2025 newsletter. The

GEFSCC, with the help of our community, has faced a government shutdown, the withholding of SNAP benefits causing a tremendous spike in requests for help, our annual Thanksgiving program, Christmas, the New Year and the election of a new Chairperson.

By way of introduction, I am Grant R. Rogers, and I have the unenviable task of stepping into the shoes of Amy Peritsky. I am an Air Force veteran and current Federal employee, with over 25 years of service to the United States. I am also the Executive Vice President of my local chapter of the National Treasury Employees Union. While I have only been a resident of Greece since 2022, I have found a home here in the Northeast generally, and in Greece and at the GEFSCC specifically. My son and I both started as In-Person-Shopping volunteers. While I admit being the Chairperson is a bit of an undertaking, I can't think of a better use of my time than helping to serve the neighbors of our community.

In the coming year we will face massive revisions to the SNAP program, including increasing the age for Able-bodied Without Dependents restrictions from 54 to 64 years of age, increased work requirements for parents with children in school, and very likely increasing costs in all areas of life for our neighbors. As we approach 50 years of service to Greece and Charlotte, I would like to reach out to all of you for volunteers. There

are many ways that you can contribute to the mission of the GEFSCC. If you have time and want to help serve our neighbors, please consider volunteering or serving on the board. For more information see the article on page three.

## Announcing New Website

We're happy to announce that the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf and Clothing Closet will be launching a brand-new website in mid-February. This updated site will bring everything together in one convenient place—hours of operation, weather-related or emergency closing notices, donation guidelines and details on the types of items we can accept.



Once it's live, you'll be able to find it at [gefsandcc.org](https://gefsandcc.org) or scan the QR code. We hope you'll stop by, explore the new layout and stay connected with all that's happening at the Food Shelf and Clothing Closet.

## Current Needs!



(Regular sizes, not large please)

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <b>cereal</b>                          | <b>ketchup</b>     |
| <b>mayonnaise</b>                      | <b>jelly</b>       |
| <b>deodorant</b>                       | <b>toothpaste</b>  |
| <b>shampoo</b>                         | <b>conditioner</b> |
| <b>packets of mashed potato flakes</b> |                    |
| <b>cream of chicken soup</b>           |                    |

## Clothing Closet

Laura Robinson

A huge thank you to the members of our community who donated over 700 bags of clothing, blankets, bedding, new and used winter coats and boots over the fall and winter months. Your support is immensely appreciated, both by the Clothing Closet staff and the individuals and families we serve. We hope you will continue to support our efforts in the future.

We are still accepting winter clothing until the end of February but will begin accepting donations of spring and summer clothing the first week of March. Children's clothing always seems to be in short supply, so any donations of children's clothing, from newborn to teen sizes, are always welcome regardless of the season. Donations of winter coats, blankets, towels, bedding, and comforters are also accepted year-round, and we are always in need of **new** briefs, boxers, panties and socks for both adults and children.

Donations are accepted only during our open hours (Tuesday 10-12 noon, Wednesday 4-6 pm and Saturday 9-11). If those times don't work for you, call us at 585-397-2192 to set up a time that is convenient. Please don't leave your donations outside when we're not open; we're not able to use them and they are discarded. When donating, we request you use 13-gallon size bags to deliver your donations if possible. If you don't have those, you can bring your donations in other types of containers. Our staff will be happy to help transfer them into the appropriate bags.

For more details on immediate needs, please check the Clothing Closet page on the forthcoming Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf & Clothing Closet website at [gefsandcc.org](http://gefsandcc.org) or give us a call at 585-397-2192.

*"A small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

*Margaret Meade*

## Remembering Kay Cooper



In October, we lost **Kay Cooper**, a treasured member of our community and a devoted Food Shelf volunteer for 18 years. Kay served as a verifier for both our Emergency Feeding and Basket Programs, touching many clients' lives. She was Coordinator

for our Holiday Program, ensuring families had means to celebrate during the holiday season. Kay's kindness, leadership and unwavering commitment enriched our mission in countless ways. We are deeply grateful for her years of service and will carry forward her legacy of generosity and care.

## Holiday Program Results

We set a new record last November by helping over 578 households (30% more than 2024) make their holiday a more festive event. Last fall was a stressful time for many people due to the delay in receiving SNAP benefits and anxiety about funding cuts affecting other programs. Our community seemed to recognize this and responded by being extremely generous. As a result, we provided gift cards to more individuals and families than ever before.

Many people arrived 2 hours ahead of time and some walked to the distribution site. Traffic extended from Barnard Park parking lot down Maiden Lane. We thank Barnard Fire Rescue for the use of their parking lot, and Ron Wood (of Barnard Fire Rescue) and the Greece Special Police for directing traffic at the events.

Other Food Shelf programs receive some support from Foodlink, corporate donations and grants. Our Holiday Program is funded exclusively by community donations. We saw

many happy and grateful people receiving a gift card and wish our donors could hear their words of gratitude.

## Help Needed – Part I

One day in early November our Packer Coordinator, Lee Stello, was taking trash out to the dumpster when an elderly gentleman drove into the parking lot. He asked her if the Food Shelf was open, explaining their SNAP benefits hadn't arrived and his wife was a nervous wreck. He said he had never been to a food pantry before and was terribly embarrassed. He asked if we could spare some food?

We weren't open at that time, so Lee gave him an Emergency Bag (about a day or two of food) and a rack card with our hours and information about other local pantries. Again and again, he thanked Lee and cited his wife's worry. Sometimes receiving food assistance nourishes the mind as well as the body.

## Help Needed –Part II

*Volunteers are needed for several roles*

**Driver Dispatcher:** Places calls to our volunteer drivers to locate one to make a delivery and relays the client information. This is at-home work on Fridays.

**Verifier:** Responds to people calling our hotline for assistance. This is at-home work on weekdays from 9 AM to 3 PM, typically a few days a month. Very basic computer skills are required. You do not need to use your own phone.

**Holiday Program Coordinator:** Provides leadership for the committee running the program. Committee is active from late July through mid-December.

Call the hotline at (585) 683-9674 or email our Volunteer Coordinator directly at [gefsc.volunteer@gmail.com](mailto:gefsc.volunteer@gmail.com).

*If you have suggestions, questions, or concerns for the Board to consider, please email them to [gefoodshelf@gmail.com](mailto:gefoodshelf@gmail.com).*

## Born Poor

PBS Frontline's program *Born Poor* follows three children raised in low-income families into adulthood, revealing how poverty shapes opportunity and long-term outcomes. It's a thoughtful, eye-opening documentary for anyone seeking deeper insight into the challenges many young adults face.

Click on the link to watch:

[https://youtu.be/WTbo4gb\\_c3o?si=Z80Bb6we0jqOGG32](https://youtu.be/WTbo4gb_c3o?si=Z80Bb6we0jqOGG32)

## Have Fun Stocking the GEFS&CC

Would you like to help us fill our shelves **and** have a good time doing it? Here are two ideas.

Throw a baby shower. Ask your guests to bring a pack of diapers or a can of baby formula. Play those goofy baby shower games. (You can find ideas on the internet.) Share and laugh at the memories of being a first-time parent.



Do you have a birthday coming up and family is wondering what you might want? Tell them you'd like shelf stable food to donate! Suggest hearty soups, canned meats, canned fruits and veggies, or a birthday cake kit (cake mix, canned frosting & pack of candles.)

All donations are gratefully accepted Mondays 9 to 11 AM and Saturdays 10:30 to 11:30 AM. Other times by appointment. Call Bob Peritsky at (585) 208-9741.



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**GREECE ECUMENICAL FOOD SHELF & CLOTHING CLOSET INC.  
Donation Form**

Please make checks payable to **GEFS&CC Inc.**

I (we) wish to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:     the Food Shelf     the Clothing Closet

Options:    In Honor of     In Memory of    Person's name \_\_\_\_\_

Please send notification to    (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

We only use email addresses to acknowledge donations and save postage. We do not use email for solicitations.

Please mail tax-deductible contributions to GEFS&CC Treasurer, 500 Maiden Lane, Rochester, NY 14616.  
All donors will receive an acknowledgement of their contribution. GEFS&CC Inc. is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. EIN # 22-2503892

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