



Volunteers from Aéropostale and Fashion Delivers Charitable Foundation, Inc. distributed hundreds of coats, sweatshirts and accessories to F-E-G-S participants. (Back row) Stephanie Levy<sup>1</sup>, Executive Director; Kathy Gentilozzi<sup>2</sup>, Sr. Vice President, Human Resources; Ross Citta<sup>2</sup>, Group Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer; Jay Eaton<sup>2</sup>, Vice President, Operations; Kenneth Ohashi<sup>2</sup>, Vice President, Investor and Media Relations; Christian Boglivi<sup>2</sup>, Director, Aero Cares; (Front Row L-R) Patricia Goodwin-Peters<sup>2</sup>, Vice President, Compensation & Benefits; Natalie Turpan<sup>2</sup>, Vice President, Lease Services; Lauren Perry<sup>1</sup>, Director of Communications; Eya Yerkes<sup>2</sup>, Vice President, Store Planning, Allocation and Systems; and Colette Stanford<sup>2</sup>, Vice President, Counsel. (<sup>1</sup>Fashion Delivers Charitable Foundation, Inc., <sup>2</sup>Aéropostale, Inc.)

## New Yorkers Respond Giving by Individuals, Organizations, and Businesses Makes An Impact

Approximately one in seven people – some 14.5 percent – in the U.S. lives below the poverty line, according to recent Census Bureau statistics. That is the highest poverty rate since 1994. The official poverty threshold – just under \$11,000 for an individual and \$22,000 for a family of four – does not reflect the additional millions of Americans who are just scraping by. Unemployment in New York City – which dropped slightly, to 9.1 percent, down from the 10.5 percent rate of a year ago – still leaves more than 400,000 New Yorkers and another 100,000 in Long Island looking for work.

### Volunteers Play a Vital Role

“As the effects of the recession continue, with more and more families devastated by both the financial and emotional effects of job loss, volunteers play an ever-increasing role in helping individuals and families cope with new realities,” said Karen Zuckerman, F-E-G-S Associate Vice President for Student Internships and Volunteer Services.

“Each one touches one” is an appropriate description of the impact volunteers make, she continued. F-E-G-S relies upon some 2,000 volunteers who provide services year-round and in a variety of ways. They mentor young people, visit seniors living alone, help refugees and immigrants become citizens, conduct practice interviews for job seekers, provide emotional support for individuals and families facing life-limiting illness, and much more.

### Clothing, Shoes, Groceries, School Supplies Help Those in Need

“With government funding dwindling and many donors experiencing ‘compassion fatigue’, volunteers expand the reach of F-E-G-S programs,” noted Kathy Rosenthal, F-E-G-S Vice President, Family Services and Long Island Regional Operations. “They step in to give freely of their time and talent, and through their relationships with other community organizations and businesses, bring direct and immediate support to individuals and families in need.”



A fashionable coat for winter winds is a welcome first to this job seeker's wardrobe from a generous donation of clothing from Aéropostale, Inc. in conjunction with Fashion Delivers, Inc.

- **Suited for Work**, a two year-old volunteer initiative, began as a way to assist many participants in F-E-G-S employment programs who could not afford appropriate business attire for job interviews. F-E-G-S volunteers, working with Americorps volunteers, created a program that solicits donations from major clothing manufacturers and gives them at no cost to F-E-G-S consumers who have job interviews scheduled. Over **1,200 individuals** have been helped to date.

- **F-E-G-S received 800 requests for Thanksgiving Food Baskets** this year – a 60 percent increase from two years ago. F-E-G-S's efforts were bolstered by a donation of **300 turkeys** from **Rock Can Roll**, a Long Island nonprofit hunger relief organization. The food baskets provided an estimated 3,000 people with a traditional holiday meal.



More than 300 turkeys donated by Rock Can Roll were distributed to Long Islanders for the Thanksgiving holiday. (L-R) Aimee Holtzman, Executive Director, Rock Can Roll, Robert Smith, Administrative Team Leader, F-E-G-S; and Debbie Weiss, Coordinator, Long Island Volunteer Services, F-E-G-S.

- **More than 700 youth from five Long Island synagogues and three Jewish day schools took part in Jewish Social Action Month**, sponsored by UJA-Federation. After attending a workshop that illustrated the extent of hunger on Long Island, the young people created an event, “Walk a Mile in My Shoes.” They walked individually for the next month, soliciting sponsorship for each mile completed. With the monies raised, the young people purchased and donated almost **500 pairs of new shoes** to F-E-G-S for children who could not afford them.

- **Volunteers and staff from F-E-G-S and UJA-Federation** joined forces for **Supplies for Success**, a project that collected, prepared, and distributed more than **700 backpacks** filled with school supplies to students who could not afford them.

- For the second year, clients and staff of **Jewish Home Lifecare** – a UJA-Federation beneficiary agency that provides a range of healthcare, rehabilitation, homecare, and residential programs to older adults – collected and donated school supplies and childcare items that were distributed to participants in F-E-G-S Education and Youth programs and its Center for Women and Families.



School supplies, baby care items, and homemade greeting cards were part of donated items presented to F-E-G-S by volunteers and staff from Jewish Home Lifecare. (Left-Right): Jewish Home Lifecare staff members Dana Calvey, Senior Project Manager; Athena Lu Kreiser, Associate Director of Strategic Planning; and Joel Fermin, Clerk Escort; and F-E-G-S staff members, Elizabeth McGowan, Director, Center for Women and Families; Courtney Hawkins, Associate Vice President, Education & Youth Services; and Nicole Fields, Director of College Placements, Education & Youth Services.

### Volunteers Make the Difference

“Our volunteers are a treasured resource, commented Debbie Weiss, F-E-G-S Long Island volunteer coordinator. “They make a personal connection that reassures people that they are not alone, that someone cares about them, and most of all, that they have not been forgotten.” ■

If you wish to make a safe, secure online donation to support F-E-G-S volunteer programs, or learn more about volunteer opportunities at F-E-G-S, click the button(s) below:



- Recently, **Fashion Delivers Charitable Foundation, Inc.** coordinated a site visit and distribution at F-E-G-S's Manhattan headquarters with representatives from one of their top donors, **Aéropostale, Inc.** The goal of the visit was to learn more about the agency's services and to meet a group of consumers in F-E-G-S mental health, developmental disabilities, domestic violence, education, and employment programs. Aéropostale contributed an impressive array of coats, jackets, jeans, hats, gloves, and other apparel to be distributed at F-E-G-S locations. For many F-E-G-S consumers who are in poverty, the gifts represented their only opportunity to own a warm winter coat or to be able to give their children a present during the holiday season.



More than 1,200 clients have received business attire for their “first” job interview through the generous donations of clothing manufacturers to the F-E-G-S Suited for Work program. Above, Karen Zuckerman, Associate Vice President, Student Internship and Volunteer Programs and “J” who, with his new suit, is ready for his job interview.

- **Volunteers in 18 Long Island synagogues** participated in **Project Replenish**, collecting **8,700 food items** – staples and non-perishable foods – that went to stock F-E-G-S's five food pantries in Nassau and Suffolk counties. The project was part of the **F-E-G-S Partners in Caring** program, an initiative of **UJA-Federation of New York**.

- F-E-G-S food pantries also receive ongoing support from **LI Cares, Inc. – The Harry Chapin Food Bank**. This year, a generous **\$25,000 grant** from the **Walmart Foundation** has enabled the **F-E-G-S Oak Street Food Pantry** in Copiague to increase the amount of food available and to offer a greater array of healthy choices. During the past year, almost ten thousand individuals have used F-E-G-S's food pantries, more than double the previous year.



Teens from Temple Chaverim in Plainview participated in Jewish Social Action Month project called “Walk a Mile in My Shoes,” which generated monies to purchase more than 500 pairs of shoes for children in need.

Other volunteer program initiatives augment F-E-G-S employment and career transition programs. Through **I-PREP** (Interview Practice and Review for Emerging Professionals), MBA students at **Columbia** work with F-E-G-S consumers, helping them practice interviewing skills, sharpening their resumes, and giving tips on how to present themselves to prospective employers. The program has grown to include volunteers from **NYU Law School, Wharton Business School, Goldman Sachs, Deloitte Touche, Bank Leumi, JPMorgan Chase, NY Cares, and UJA-Federation** – mentoring high school youth, public assistance recipients, and high-level professionals affected by job loss in the current economy. Over the past ten years, almost ten thousand consumers have been assisted.