



THANKSGIVING PROGRAM 2015

Dear Thanksgiving Dinner Volunteers,

Thank you for your generous offer to participate in the Breathing Room Thanksgiving Dinner Program. The Breathing Room Foundation is a local organization that assists families with cancer. We provide support for families throughout Philadelphia, parts of eastern and western Montgomery County, lower Bucks County, and small portions of Delaware and Chester Counties. Here are some details to guide you as you plan your **uncooked** dinner basket or organize your family, friends or co-workers' contributions. The families cook their own turkeys but we provide the necessary ingredients.

The **uncooked** meal will be delivered to the families the Saturday before Thanksgiving, November 21. This allows the families to check that all the necessary food has been supplied to them. If the ingredients for traditional side dishes are missing, they still have time to purchase them. If you organize a general Thanksgiving collection at work or school, the deadline for those donations is Wednesday, November 18. Please have your complete meal **to our collection site at St. James Catholic School Hall** by Friday, November 20. Our major distribution day is Saturday, November 21 beginning at 8:30 AM.

Each meal includes the following items: turkey, potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberry, canned vegetables, gravy, rolls, butter, pies/desserts, whipped topping, disposable turkey roasting pan, Thanksgiving napkins and paper plates, and coffee/tea. You will be given a specific family with the number of people at their feast so you can judge how much food is needed. We provide meals for families of 2 to 20.

A few helpful suggestions as you collect your donations:

- *check the expiration date on all food items
- *potatoes and sweet potatoes can be fresh or canned (no frozen or fresh veggies)
- *butter and whipped topping should be the only refrigerated items
- ***no uncooked frozen pies (like frozen Mrs. Smith's)** ... they melt and it is not pretty!
- *frozen turkeys are the easiest to transport
- *empty computer paper boxes with lids, reusable grocery bags or brown bags with handles are sturdy ways to organize and transport food items
- *clearly mark the family's name on all your food boxes/bags so they stay together

Thank you very much for your kindness and generosity for the Breathing Room Thanksgiving Dinner program! Your support provides our families a little "breathing room" for this special holiday. We are a VOLUNTEER organization so we rely on your support to continue our family outreach.

**PLEASE DELIVER YOUR THANKSGIVING MEALS OR DONATIONS BY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 TO
ST. JAMES CATHOLIC SCHOOL HALL 8320 BROOKSIDE ROAD ELKINS PARK 19027**

Eileen Carissimi
Volunteer Coordinator
215-277-1006 (W) 215-740-3076 ©

Mary Ellen Fitzgerald
Executive Director
215-570-0530 ©

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES WITH CANCER AT WWW.BREATHINGROOMFOUNDATION.ORG