



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MONROE UNIVERSITY TO ONCE AGAIN HOST 9/11 DAY OF SERVICE PROJECT TO PACK 50,000 MEALS TO HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY**

**Monroe University, Volunteer New York!, and The City of New Rochelle Team Up with Feeding Westchester to Distribute Packed Meals Locally**

NEW ROCHELLE, NY – August 25, 2025 – The City of New Rochelle, Volunteer New York!, Monroe University, and Feeding Westchester proudly announce that they will jointly host a community service project on Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> to help local residents with food insecurity challenges as part of the federal September 11<sup>th</sup> National Day of Service and Remembrance. This is the third year holding this event, which once again was selected to receive outside funding to help meet its goal of packing and distributing 50,000 meals across Feeding Westchester's extensive network of partners.

The event is part of 9/11 Day's national college meal packing program, which provides grant funding to approximately one dozen colleges and universities across the country to support the events and offset related costs. Volunteers will pack non-perishable food items into containers that will then be distributed to those in need. Collectively, more than one million meals are expected to be packed at those locations next month through the initiative.

"People banding together to help one another is one of the most enduring memories in the wake of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001. It's hard to think of a better opportunity to honor 9/11 and the spirit of volunteerism than showing up for our New Rochelle and broader Westchester County communities through this day of service." said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert.

The meal-packing event will be held at the Monroe Athletic Complex at 19 LeCount Place, with volunteers having the opportunity to choose between two shifts: 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Local volunteers, college students, and community members will come together to pack meals for Monroe's on-campus food pantry and various local partners within Feeding Westchester's hunger relief network. Volunteers aged 18 and over, or 16-17 with an adult and a signed Youth Waiver, are invited to participate in meal preparation, weighing, sealing, and packaging.

Marc Jerome, President of Monroe University, shared his excitement about the upcoming event: "We are honored to host this wonderful event for the third consecutive year and look forward to once again welcoming everyone to our campus for this meaningful community tradition – neighbors coming together to help neighbors. This year, we're aiming to surpass last year's remarkable milestone number of meals packed and help even more Westchester families in need."

Serving as a kick-off for Volunteer New York!'s 15th annual 9/11: Serve & Remember days of service, this exclusive project highlights the resilience and unity that emerged in the wake of September 11th. In addition to the event on September 5<sup>th</sup>, another county-wide day of service will take place on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at the Westchester County Center. There, volunteers will have the opportunity to address various local needs, from food insecurity to a blood drive with the New York Blood Center and more. Three volunteer shifts will be offered, 12 Noon to 1:30PM, 2:30PM to 3:30PM, and 4:30 to 6:00PM.

Now, twenty-four years since September 11th and after a generation has grown up in the shadow of 9/11, our youngest generation with no memories of the day, are choosing to serve. The resilience and unity shown by Americans in its aftermath remain a source of strength and resiliency. With thousands of local volunteers having contributed to 9/11: Serve & Remember over the past 14 years, this event has stood as a moment for our community to turn a tragic moment in our nation's history into a call for civic action. We urge local students and families, especially those born after 2001, to participate this 9/11 Day to connect with the spirit of service and understand the significance of 9/11.

"9/11 Day is a call to action," said Polly Lagana, Executive Director of Volunteer New York! "It's a day for our community to show up for our neighbors and transform remembrance into impact. Whether we are working together to pack meals or giving time in another way, every act of service helps build a stronger, more connected community. This is how Volunteer New York! and our partners honor the past and shape the future."

This year's 9/11: Serve & Remember event presented by Volunteer New York! and Westchester County is made possible with critical support from **Lead Sponsor:** Robison Oil; **Event Sponsors:** Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts and WMC Health.

To learn more about the New Rochelle meal-packing project or other opportunities as part of the 15th annual 9/11: Serve & Remember days of service, visit [volunteernewyork.org/service](http://volunteernewyork.org/service). Advanced registration is required. For questions, please call 914-948-4452.

### **About National 9/11 Day of Service**

9/11 Day was created in 2002 to meaningfully honor the memories of those lost on September 11, 2001, and to inspire Americans and others to do good deeds in support of creating a better and more peaceful world. It is also a day that is meant to help rekindle the extraordinary spirit of togetherness, volunteerism, and compassion that arose in the immediate aftermath of the 9/11 tragedy.

Since becoming a National Day of Service, 9/11 Day has grown into the United States' largest day of charitable service. By volunteering on 9/11 Day each year, you help support their mission to transform the anniversary of September 11 into a worldwide day of good and a symbol of American resilience, while helping to keep the spirit of all who were lost alive in our hearts and minds. The positive legacy that we create together on 9/11 Day can be passed down for generations upon generations to come. Learn more about the #911DAY movement at [911day.org](http://911day.org).

### **About Volunteer New York!**

Volunteer New York!'s mission is to mobilize our community to address its greatest challenges. We envision a community that is vibrant, resilient, and equitable and see volunteerism and civic engagement as important and powerful strategies to achieving this vision. Volunteer New York! is a one-stop resource devoted to increasing volunteerism in Westchester and our surrounding communities.

In Partnership with the City of New Rochelle, Volunteer New Rochelle! was launched in 2016 to provide residents with year-round opportunities to volunteer where they live and support local nonprofits. Volunteer New York! is proud to support the City of New Rochelle to help increase local volunteerism and spread

awareness of local nonprofits' volunteer needs. For an active list of ways to volunteer in New Rochelle, please visit [volunteernewyork.org/newrochelle](http://volunteernewyork.org/newrochelle) or call 914-948-4452.

Last year, Volunteer New York! helped to inspire more than 35,000 volunteers to take action and to coordinate more than 457,000 hours of service that supported more than 300 nonprofits and local organizations, providing a value of \$16.9 million back to our community.

Volunteer New York!'s Corporate Champions include: Corporate AV, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, M&T Bank, MasterCard, Million Air, Morgan Stanley, PCSB Community Foundation, PepsiCo, PKF O'Connor Davies, LLP, RAND, Regeneron, Robison Oil Corporation, The Journal News & LoHud.com, Webster Bank, and WMCHHealth. With additional and ongoing support from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the New York State Office for Aging, and the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services.

### **About Monroe University**

Founded in 1933, Monroe University is a recognized leader in urban and international education. The institution is proud of its innovative programs to increase college access, affordability, and completion outcomes, especially among first-generation students, and for the national recognition it receives for its strong impact on graduates' social mobility.

Monroe educates 9,000 students each year, offering Certificate, Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degree programs from New York campuses in the Bronx and New Rochelle, as well as in the Caribbean nation of Saint Lucia. Students may also pursue degree programs through Monroe Online. Programs are offered through Schools of Allied Health Professions, Business and Accounting, Criminal and Social Justice, Education, Hospitality Management, Information Technology, and Nursing, as well as through its King Graduate School. Liberal arts and continuing education programs are also available.

For more information and admissions criteria, please visit <http://www.monroeu.edu>.

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