

Project Just Because receives donation

by Erica Brown

The MetroWest Foundation distributed \$50,000 to food pantries throughout the region, including a \$2,000 grant to the Hopkinton food pantry at the Project Just Because (PJB) facility on South Street. "This kind and generous donation has made a significant difference to those who need us," said PJB founder Cherylann Lambert Walsh.

The \$50,000 donation came from the Foundation's English Family Fund, started by Ted and Maureen English in 2007. "Food pantries throughout the MetroWest region are seeing an increase in demand from our friends and neighbors who are in need of food assistance," said Judith Salerno, executive director of Foundation for MetroWest. "The Foundation is happy that we are, in a small but impactful way, able to help these organizations stretch their resources a little further this winter season," said Salerno.

Walsh noted that although the food drives were successful this year, monetary donations were down. "The Boy and Girl Scouts in town do an amazing job with their seasonal food drive," said Walsh "but there are a lot more people using the pantry and if the food people need is not donated in a

food drive bag, PJB has to buy what they need," said Walsh who expressed sincere gratitude to the Foundation for MetroWest and feels monetary donations like the Foundation's act as "a direct connect to let us help people."

Foundation for MetroWest connects philanthropic opportunity with demonstrated need in Metro West. In 2010 the Foundation distributed \$500,000 throughout the region and has distributed more than \$6.5 million since its inception in 1995.

Walsh's goal for the PJB food pantry is "to be able to have people walk in the door and give them what they need, and it doesn't matter how many people walk in that door." Walsh recalled a story about a local boy who came into the facility during the holiday season and donated all of his coins to the food pantry.

"The donation meant a lot to him, and so much to us," said Walsh, "because any direct donation, big or small, allows PJB to purchase what is needed for so many during these difficult times." For more information about Project Just Because visit projectjustbecause.org.

For more information about Foundation for MetroWest visit Foundationformetrowest.org.

