

Transcript of COS Interview

"I'm here at Community Outreach Services which is a food pantry here at Fifth Avenue in Paterson, and I am just excited and pleased about some of the activity that's going on down here in Paterson by two very dedicated volunteers who actually started this pantry in the foyer of their own home on 17th Avenue. And it's grown into something that's absolutely phenomenal."

I'm Elisa Brown, I'm the Chief Administrator of Community Outreach Services. We are a food pantry here, we serve 1,400 people a month. We also do job listings here, we help people with jobs, we give them referrals. We also do apartment listings also, as well as clothing. People come in here and get their clothes, it's amazing when they see what they can get from us here. They love - they love our food especially.

People come from other places, and some of them come in need. They come crying, and some of them tell them their food's stale and some of them come in, and can they come back? And we tell them sure, come back, and we'll help them the best way that we could.

OK, there was a lady that came in and she has three children and she didn't have no kind of help. And she got thrown out from her house and she ended up staying at a friend's house. A friend brought her here, and when I went to ask her where she lived at she started to cry to me. And she told me what happened to her - they had cut her off from the system, and she had three kids and she didn't know what to do. And the lady that brought her in - she started staying at her house. But she wanted to, you know, she needed help.

So we tried to help. We gave her food and we also gave her apartment listings to see if she could find herself help, and we also invited her to come along and see what she could get. It touched my heart that I could have helped her in a way to make a difference in her life. It's beautiful.