

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 8, 2009

Contact: Sandi Knakal, knax3@aol.com, 766-5892

Chatham Film Club Announces Gift to Regional Food Bank

Thanks to two sell-out screenings of the new film, *Taking Woodstock*, at the Crandell Theater in Chatham on July 30, the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York is receiving a donation of \$11,250. The Chatham Film Club sponsored the special showing of the film to raise funds for its campaign to purchase the historic Crandell Theatre. The Regional Food Bank was chosen to benefit as well.

Sandi Knakal, president of the Chatham Film Club, said, "We're pleased to be able to partner with another important community organization that helps so many of our neighbors in these difficult times." In all, ten food pantries in Columbia County will benefit from this significant donation.

The village of Chatham experienced the excitement of Hollywood as more than 1,000 people came to view the film. In line before the shows, many moviegoers anticipated seeing local spots and people they knew since the movie was filmed in and around Columbia County. Ang Lee, director, and James Schamus, screenwriter/producer, were present and spoke to the audience. Elliot Tiber, author of the book on which the film is based, also attended. With proceeds from the showing as well as a tent party on the green, the film club raised \$21,000 for its campaign to purchase the theatre.

Executive Director of the Regional Food Bank, Mark Quandt, said, "We thank James Schamus and the Chatham Film Club for inviting the Regional Food Bank to be part of the *Taking Woodstock* evening. Many hungry people in Columbia County will benefit from the

money raised from this wonderful event.” Based in Latham, NY, the Regional Food Bank distributes donations of food to charitable organizations in 23 counties.

The Chatham Film Club shows films the last Sunday of each month and hosts FilmColumbia, an annual film festival which will take place this year October 22–25 at the Crandell Theatre. For more information about the film club and the Preserve the Crandell Campaign, go to the website, www.chathamfilmclub.com or call 518–392–3445.

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