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Sisters' Silent Auction Benefits Guilford Interfaith Ministry Fund



Photo courtesy of GIM

Guilford sisters Carly (left) and Olivia Sommo present Lori Wells of Guilford Interfaith Ministries (GIM) with a surprise cash donation of \$77.25 that the girls raised for GIM's Shattuck Fund. The fund spends \$50 to \$75 weekly on fresh produce to supplement Guilford Food Bank donations. The sisters held a silent auction at their family's Thanksgiving dinner to raise the money.

By [Pam Johnson](#) Courier Senior Staff Writer

A young pair of Guilford sisters came up with a great idea that could really make a difference if it catches on in time for your next holiday family gathering.

This Thanksgiving, sisters Carly and Olivia Sommo decided to host a silent auction during their 16-member family dinner. The idea raised nearly \$80 for the Guilford Food Bank.

"They asked everyone to bring something to be auctioned off. Amazingly, they were able to raise \$77.25 and they donated it to the Shattuck Fund, which is managed by Guilford Interfaith Ministries" or GIM, explained Lori Wells, director of GIM Friendly Visiting.

The two young ladies, granddaughters to GIM board member Bette Sommo, learned of the lesser-known Shattuck Fund through their grandmother, added Wells. Unlike other contributions to the Guilford Food Bank, money earmarked for the Shattuck Fund is used to buy fresh produce for Guilford Food Bank recipients. Guilford Food Bank is also supported by GIM.

"The Shattuck Fund is there to supplement [food bank] canned goods and it is so appreciated by those who receive its offerings," said Wells.

GIM spends on average \$50 to \$75 dollars weekly to purchase fresh food bank produce through the Shattuck Fund.

"This week, it was navel oranges and bananas," said Wells.

The Sommo sisters surprised Wells with a visit to the GIM offices on State Street shortly after Thanksgiving, when they presented the cash they'd generated from their silent auction idea. The Shattuck Fund was established in 2005 in honor of Guilford resident Martha Shattuck. The fund is supported solely from private donations by individuals and local business, to provide nutritious alternatives to canned vegetables and fruits for Guilford Food Bank recipients. To learn more about GIM programs or to make a donation, visit www.gim.org or send a check to GIM, 310 State St., Unit 200, Guilford, CT 06437. If making a contribution to the Shattuck Fund, make checks payable to "Shattuck Fund."