



BITS FROM THE BASKET

CCEA FOOD PANTRY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2016

Our holidays are over and Lent is on the horizon. Here's hoping everyone had a glorious holiday season!

Our holiday meals drive was wonderfully successful. Your generosity provided seventy-one families with holiday meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Just over \$3,000 was collected and after expenses, there was almost \$1,000 remaining to be moved into the Food Pantry Account. Our patrons were given a choice of a ham or turkey and side dishes consisting of yams, mashed potatoes, a green vegetable and cranberry sauce. You truly made a wonderful difference in the lives of these seventy-one families.

The Food Pantry has also benefited from a number of special holiday season drives providing canned goods, gift cards and dry goods. Our accumulated health products (tooth paste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) were shared with the rotating shelter, helping to provide these basic needs to the Cecil County homeless. We were also able to share with other food pantries that were in dire straits during the holiday season, helping to provide basic needs and shelf stable items.

Please remember, we never have too much. We share with other pantries in an effort to help all the needy in our area. At the end of the school term, the milk left over when the schools closed for the holiday, was brought to the CCEA and shared with other pantries. Nothing goes to waste. Your shelf stable contributions to the Pantry are always needed. Cash donations are put into a restricted account designated for use only by the Pantry and are used in times when donations of particular items are low. At those times, we purchase from local providers. The SAV A TAPES provide a cash refund of 1% of the tape total. This is also placed in the Food Pantry Account for use in times of need.

Our volunteers worked diligently during this season. They are a special group of people who never say no! At the beginning of January 2016, a reception was held to honor our special people. Volunteer Angel pins were given to all in attendance who volunteered at the CCEA. Twenty-eight Certificates of Appreciation were given to our top volunteers. I can only say, you cannot be thanked enough. Without you, we would not be able to exist or provide services to the community.

I have been Food Pantry Manager for over three years. In that time, I have seen the Pantry go from providing food to a few people each week, to as many as twenty-nine people in a day. As the need has grown, so has the Food Pantry. It is a very rewarding occupation to see so many people receive the food they need. In this time, we have joined The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) from the USDA, benefited from the Feeding America Program through the HELP Center and obtained regular frozen meats from the Maryland Food Bank in conjunction with the Bag of Hope Club. We have networked with other food pantries to help provide the best possible service to the needy in Cecil County and Chesapeake City.

As rewarding as this is, it is time for me to move on. I will be leaving the CCEA and Food Pantry on January 29, 2016. I am hoping someone will feel the call to step up and take over the position. It is work intensive, but worth every minute. If you are interested in the position, please go to the Chesapeake City Ecumenical Association website, www.ccea4u.com, for a job description. It is a volunteer position, with payment in the knowledge you are helping someone in need.

“Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.”
– **H. Jackson Brown Jr.**

Continued Blessings to You All,

Diane Newton, Food Pantry Manager