



## ***BITS FROM THE BASKET***

### ***CCEA FOOD PANTRY NEWS***

April 2015

Happy Easter to all! Welcome to a wonderful time of renewal and hope! Spring is peaking around the corner and we'll all be basking in the warm sun very soon.

The Food Pantry has been doing a brisk business during this awful cold and frozen winter season. In spite of having to suspend operations on several pantry service days due to inclement weather, we still served 62 patrons in the pantry and 65 patrons through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). TEFAP is a federal assistance program and contributes a welcome addition to the food our Pantry can provide. This does not mean we can afford to have our food donations drop. Our Food Pantry food is still the majority of the food our patrons receive. We also never know what TEFAP will be providing. At present, we have enough sliced carrots from TEFAP, to turn all of Chesapeake City yellow!

The Food Pantry tries to provide a variety of foods to each patron. TEFAP is strictly regulated by the USDA as to the quantity each family can receive, and the variety is not always there. Your donations to the Food Pantry allow our patrons to have some variation in their food choices.

As always, we are in need of canned meats, jelly, jello, popcorn, canned fruit, hot cereal and snack foods. We can also use those grocery store plastic bags that you have been throwing in the kitchen drawer! Foods that are home canned, open packages and out of date/expired cans and items cannot be distributed.

The number of those needing food assistance grows every month. We are constantly receiving new applicants for assistance. Please remember, in these hard economic

times, the elderly and families with young children are especially impacted. If you know someone who needs food assistance, please refer them to the Food Pantry. Our service area extends from the south side of Rt 40 in Elkton and east of Big Elk Creek and the Elk River, south to the Sassafras River. If a patron is not in our service area, we can refer them to a Food Pantry in their area.

Just a note for those contributing Redner's "SAV-A-TAPES". For the tapes to be valid for the program, you must get a PUMP PERKS card from the cashier and give it to the cashier each time you checkout. The tapes cannot be more than a year old.

In this wonderful Spring and Easter season remember the words of Jesus.....***"It is more blessed to give than to receive,"*** (Acts 20:35).

***Have a blessed Easter!***

Diane Newton, Food Pantry Manager