



# ***BITS FROM THE BASKET***

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

December 2014

Greetings to all!

The holidays are upon us. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving celebrating with family and friends! The Food Pantry has been very busy preparing for the winter season and the holidays. Several food drives have been running in an effort to stock our pantry for the cold weather.

At the end of September, the Maryland Day to Serve, in conjunction with Chesapeake City Government, provided us with 113 pounds of food. Conquer the Bridge II, bridge walk and run held on October 4, provided us with 437 pounds of food, in spite of a very rainy morning. Our Fill-A-Truck event held at Redners' Markets in Elkton, filled the truck and brought us 433 pounds of food. Chesapeake City Elementary School collected 155 pounds of food for the pantry.

Additional drives are being run by the Boy Scouts, Bohemia Manor Middle School and the VFW. We are truly blessed to have so many who are concerned for the well-being of the needy in our community.

Our holiday Turkey Drive is rolling right along. At this writing (mid-November), we have collected \$408 and have pledges for 21 turkeys. We have 26 requests for turkeys, from our families. The cash will enable us to purchase the remaining needed turkeys and side dishes like dressing, cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes. The remaining funds will be used for Christmas Holiday foods. Your generosity is making the holidays special for many needy families. Thanks to all our "turkey wranglers" at the various churches who distributed and collected envelopes, and gathered the turkeys on "turkey day".

On October 25, 2014, the Food Pantry and the CCEA celebrated our first full year at the 227 Basil St location. We celebrated with a well-attended covered dish dinner and a beautiful commemorative cake. A time of fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. The new location has provided the Food Pantry with much needed additional space.

During October, the Food Pantry partnered with the USDA, in The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). This allows the Pantry to distribute additional food supplied by the USDA to our patrons, over and above the pantry allotments. This gives some much needed additional food to each qualified patron's distribution. The TEFAP distribution is governed by strict income guidelines. As with all Federal programs, operations concerning this USDA food must be carefully documented, follow specific guidelines and is subject to inspection. Although joining this program means an appreciable increase in work for our volunteers, including requiring the food be retrieved from the Elkton Help Center (we had 48 cases this month), we believe the benefit for many of our patrons is worth it.

This does not mean we do not need your continued donations. The USDA food does not consist of all the items in the spectrum of the donated foods the Food Pantry provides and, not all our patrons meet the income requirements. This month we have 144 cans of peas! We also received juice, raisins, carrots, applesauce, orange juice, canned peaches and canned beef stew. We will add the proscribed amount of these items to our patrons' usual distribution.

Winston Churchill said it very well. *"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give".*

Thank you for your continuing support! HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Diane Newton, Food Pantry Manager.