



BITS FROM THE BASKET

CCEA FOOD PANTRY NEWS

FEBRUARY 2015

Is winter over yet? A question many of us have been asking. Believe it or not, Lent is almost here, with Shrove Tuesday on February 17 and Ash Wednesday on the 18th. Where has the time gone!

Since our last newsletter, the Food Pantry has had an exciting two months. We had a wonderful response to our turkey drive with enough turkeys collected for Thanksgiving and sufficient funds to purchase hams and turkeys for Christmas. Then, we hit a giant snag. The demand was so great during December, culminating in the week of December 16, 2014, that we depleted the stock in the Food Pantry! We had to put a sign on the door, on the 17th that the supplies were depleted and requested people come back the following week. We had 31 patrons in the week of the 16th. That is more than our average monthly patronage.

We put out a request to all the churches, organizations and citizens of Chesapeake City for food. By the following week, over 1100 pounds of food and hundreds of dollars had been collected to enable the purchase of more. The response was truly humbling.

The Food Pantry distributes approximately 40 lbs of food to each patron, each visit. We maintain an average of 800 lbs of food in the Pantry. When 31 people come for food, it means we have distributed approximately 1200 lbs of food that week.

The need is continuing and the numbers of those requesting food assistance grows each month. Please continue to donate to the stocks of the Food Pantry. We never know how many may come to us for help. It could be 2 people one week and 30 people the next week. Canned meats, hot and cold cereals, snacks, canned vegetables, Ramen Noodles and any other shelf stable item is welcomed. One can added to your grocery list can help.

In January, 2015, illness and injuries took its toll on the Food Pantry volunteers. We closed on January 6, 2015 for snow and had to close again on January 7, 2015 because no volunteers were available to staff the Pantry. If you have a few hours to give, the Pantry can use your help. Help is also needed for the delivery day of federal "THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TEFAP)". Case lots of food are delivered to the HELP Center in Elkton and need to be picked up by CCEA/Food Pantry volunteers. We particularly need some strong men to help loading and unloading the cases. This delivery is generally the 3rd Thursday, after the 1st Monday of the month, although it is subject to change.

As winter progresses, our schedule will continue to be: open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 9AM-12 Noon. We will be closed for inclement weather, if the schools are closed.

In this coming Lenten season, remember what was given for you. Honor that gift by following the path that was laid for you.

Proverbs 22:9 - He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Blessings.....Diane Newton, Food Pantry Manager