



141 East Lancaster Ave.
Downingtown, PA 19335

Phone: 610-873-1149
Fax: 610-873-4711

Email: LordsPantry@verizon.net

Website:
www.lordspantryofdowningtown.org

Serving the emergency food needs of
Downingtown, Exton and Lionville
residents.

Hours of Operation:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Thursday 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

PRSR STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WEST CHESTER, PA
PERMIT, NO. 354

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

A Special Mother's Day or Father's Day

Would you like to do something special in honor or memory of your mother or father or someone meaningful in your life? If so, you can make a donation to the Lord's Pantry and we will send a certificate saying that a donation has been made in their name, from you. Just fill out the form below and mail to the Pantry or call us at 610-873-1149.

Your Information

Recipient's Information

Name: _____	Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____	Mailing Address: _____
Phone: _____	Circle one: In Memory of _____ In Honor of _____
How would you like the card to be signed? _____	

Thank you for your tax deductible donation!

___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$500 Other \$ ___

*Please cut this coupon out and send your donation to:

Lord's Pantry, 141 East Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335

To contribute by credit card, please check our website for further information

We are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

Spring 2011

On a Wing
and a Prayer



From Jan's Desk

The Lord's Pantry continues to connect individuals that need and plead with individuals that care and share. We are blessed by our faithful contributors that continue to donate even in these most trying economic conditions. You can be assured that we do everything possible to stretch your contributions to provide the maximum amount of food to our families.

The prices of food over the last 12 months have continued to rise drastically. It is reported that the average American family spends approximately 9% of their income on food. The families we serve are spending as much as 50% of their income. This, in part, is due to lower incomes, lack of income or reduced income.

In speaking to some of our clients, they have shared that the only meat they eat is what they receive from the Lord's Pantry and they are most appreciative. Unable to reduce the amount of their rent and/or mortgage payment, their food budget is the first thing to get cut.

As the needs of our clients increase, so does our workload. Presently we have 107 dedicated volunteers that have logged in well over 32,000

hours and continue to serve in the many facets of our operation. Their dedication could not be any more prevalent than during this past holiday season. We coordinated and distributed Thanksgiving Dinner Baskets to 251 of our families (serving 1,071 individuals). Relentless hours were spent coordinating the efforts of individuals and organizations that adopted our families at Christmas. Over 5,000 gifts (including 62 bikes) and Christmas Dinner Baskets were distributed to 215 of our families (serving 1,001 individuals). Many parents were very emotional and grateful as they picked up their gifts stating that these were the only gifts their children would be receiving this year.

As we approach the challenging summer months, we look forward to receiving the surplus harvests from all of the private and community gardens. We could not serve as we do without the continuing support of the community. On behalf of all of us at the Pantry, we would like to thank you for all you do to further our mission of feeding the needy.

Jan Leaf
Director

Our Volunteers - We Couldn't Do It Without You

The Lord's Pantry is fortunate to have over 100 wonderful volunteers!

On a regular basis our volunteers help our clients with their everyday food needs. So many of our clients are striving to keep their families together, to keep their home warm, or just keep food in their refrigerators. They are hard-working individuals who, due to an unforeseen circumstance are now needing our services. Our volunteers are here to help start families on the right path by providing food, our BEAP services and sometimes just as important, a smile. Our volunteers are friendly and respectful to all clients. Time and time again we hear positive comments about our volunteers, some examples are:

- One client sent a thank you note and spoke with our director about how appreciative she was of our BEAP program, and the volunteer who relentlessly persevered a program on her behalf with a successful outcome that made a huge difference in her life.
- A couple was managing on the husband's paycheck until he was suddenly laid off. They are now getting by on the services of our Pantry and food stamps. They have praised our Pantry volunteers in the local media.

So many stories, but the bottom line is the same. Our volunteers are here to serve the less fortunate and they do that with respect and a friendly smile. We thank all of them for the many hours of service.

Cyndi Brown, Volunteer Coordinator

Volume 7, Issue 1

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Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ North Park Plaza Customer Appreciation Day - raised more than \$700 to support the Pantry.
- ◆ The Easter Ham Program will provide approximately 250 families with a ham and Easter candy for the children.
- ◆ Reusable Shopping Bag Program rewards clients with an extra meal when they bring the reusable bags back to shop.
- ◆ Stay up to date on the latest news by following us on facebook at www.facebook.com/lordspantry

Board Corner

Looking Back and Looking Forward....

The Lord's Pantry of Downingtown received a great deal of favorable press during the latter part of 2010. A lengthy *Philadelphia Inquirer* article, originally run in February, was updated in the "year-end edition", one of only 10 stories of the original 100 run throughout the year. The *Daily Local News* also featured significant coverage of the Christmas event and Jan was quoted extensively in another *Philadelphia Inquirer* article discussing suburban poverty.

Below are a few statistical highlights from those "end of year" stories.

Over the past quarter, 5,418 clients were served resulting in an increase of 18.3% over the same quarter in 2009. A "typical" week during the fourth quarter involved serving 105 households, 332 individuals, 175 adults, 129 children, 28 seniors and distributing 11,620 lbs. of food. A new all-time high of 64 families were served in one day. As of our fiscal year-end (6/30/10), 94 cents of every donated dollar went DIRECTLY to program services.

Moving into 2011, the board continues to be extremely grateful for the ongoing community support that has allowed the Pantry to continue to meet the increasing demand for service, while also enhancing the offering with healthier choices.

In order to keep pace with the rising food costs Jan referenced in her article, and in anticipation of increased client need, we will be augmenting our development efforts this year. In addition to the "Empty Bowl" project and other local fund raising events, a team of five volunteers has begun a more focused approach by contacting additional large and small potential corporate sponsors surrounding our service area to make them aware of the benefits of aligning with the Lord's Pantry.

Any ideas about employers in the area who may have an interest in learning more about the Pantry would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for your continued support!

Kenneth Ross, Board President

MOST NEEDED ITEMS....

Juices, Coffee, Baked Beans, Boxed Pasta, Canned Meals (spam, chili, stew), Canned Pasta, Cereal, Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup, Sugar, Shampoo, Baby Diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5 and pull ups)



Mission Statement

Based on the belief that no one should suffer from hunger, the Lord's Pantry exists to provide supplemental food assistance to eligible, low-income individuals and families in need. We deliver this service in conjunction with government food programs, through community donations and a network of committed volunteers, in a manner that places high value on respect and dignity. Recognizing that these Downingtown Area residents have other basic, unmet needs, we also strive to refer, and/or offer appropriate services to enhance their quality of life.

"No One Should Suffer From Hunger"

Lord's Pantry Announces Benefit Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP)

Our Benefit Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP) enters its second year with many success stories from 2010. BEAP is a program run by Pantry volunteers to assist our clients in applying for the social service benefits available to them and to find referrals for other services to meet their food, housing and medical needs.

In 2010, BEAP helped clients complete 89 state benefit applications and made 132 referrals for local services. Food stamps benefits up to \$400 a month have been obtained to purchase foods to stay healthy. Dozens of clients received property tax rebates as much as \$750 or energy assistance of \$300 to \$400. As winter approached, BEAP assisted several older Pantry clients in applying for the *Senior Citizens Fuel Assistance Program* offered by the Housing Partnership of Chester County. Twelve of these seniors were awarded grants, totaling \$2,977 to date.

We've added two new counselors and are moving along smoothly in 2011. Many clients helped last year are re-applying as their benefit renewals come due or a new eligibility period begins. We are working on expanding our referral services as well as advocacy efforts to help the clients deal with the bureaucratic hurdles of government agencies and utility companies.

Hope grows in a healthy body, a warm home; it's nurtured in a trustful relationship. BEAP counselors strive to create those relationships and make hope a reality for all Pantry clients.

Kevin Zeeger and Bill Seybold
BEAP Program Coordinators

Non-Profit
Established



- **Postal Workers Food Drive**—will be held **Saturday, May 14th** — remember to put non-perishable food items at your mailbox for this annual collection (**please no expired products**).



- **Join us for a "Night in Italy"** this Spring — at the **Bistro in Exton**—check our website for upcoming details.

- Our **Christmas in July** distribution is in need of personal care items, cleaning supplies and paper products. **Deadline for donations is June 30th.**

- The **Back to School** distribution in August needs large backpacks for middle and high school students. Monetary donations will sponsor a child for new sneakers or a haircut. **Donations** should be submitted to the Pantry and designated **"Back to School"**.

- **Save The Date: Saturday, October 22, 2011:** The Lord's Pantry will have a second annual **Empty Bowl Project** at Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown. The Empty Bowl Project is an event held around the country to raise funds to feed the hungry. **We will need Bowl Makers.** This can be an ideal project for youth groups, scouts, Mom's night out or individuals. Potters create ceramic bowls and donate them to this fundraiser. Detailed information will be posted on our website.

