



141 East Lancaster Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335

Phone 610-873-1149

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.

STANDARD MAIL  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WEST CHESTER, PA  
PERMIT, NO. 354

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

## HOLIDAY GIFT



Would you like to do something special for the holiday season to honor or remember 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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like the card to be signed? \_\_\_\_\_

### Recipient's Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: In Memory of      In Honor of

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

Fall 2011

On a Wing  
And a Prayer



## From Jan's Desk

During a recent conversation with a colleague, I was informed that the term "burned out" has been replaced with "emotionally bankrupt". It sometimes becomes difficult to listen to all of the depressing scenarios that our families are dealing with on a daily basis. Then you experience one day like the following that keeps you going.

The door opened and a woman, I will call Ruth, who had been a client two years ago entered. As soon as she said her name, I recalled that her family moved here from California in the hopes of finding employment. They were most appreciative of the assistance they received during the holidays for their four children, as well as the support of our BEAP volunteer. Ruth proudly handed me a check for \$1,000 and explained that she and her husband had been blessed with jobs and really wanted to give back to insure we would be able to assist others during the holidays. That same afternoon I ran into another client who was delighted to inform me that she is now working for PECO as an engineer. After getting laid off from her engineering position a few years ago, she was forced to accept a lesser paying position out of her field to avoid foreclosure. It is these success stories that keep us going.

As the holiday season approaches, we are diligently working on our Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. Due to unemployment and/or underemployment, many of our families are experiencing the need for holiday assistance for the first time. We will be providing gifts to close to 600 children. We have received wishes for warm clothing, bedding and personal care needs such as a haircut. It is only through your continued support that we can provide our families with gifts for their children.

All of us at the Lord's Pantry wish all of you and your families a very blessed holiday season and a healthy New Year.

Jan Leaf, Director



## Empty Bowl Dinner - A Success

In recognition of National Hunger Week, the Lord's Pantry held our second annual Empty Bowl Dinner on October 22nd at Central Presbyterian Church. Attendees were treated to their choice of four delicious soups made and served by CPC's Central Working Guild. Girl Scouts, church and school groups donated pottery bowls that were fired at The Pottery Place, by Chris Harmon. Each ticket holder took home a bowl as a reminder of empty bowls around the world. Music was provided by "TAP". Corey Johnson, a local potter, provided a pottery demonstration. The Lord's Pantry cookbook and pottery bowls were also sold. Thanks very much to everyone who attended, contributed to, or worked at the event. It was a sellout and huge success!

Shelley O'Neill, Development Coordinator

"No One Should Suffer From Hunger"

Volume 7, Issue 2

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### Special Points of Interest

Our Christmas in July distribution gave 342 households cleaning supplies and laundry detergent.

Congratulations to Ingrid Chinnici, winner of the Phillies Tickets from our Baseball Non-Event Drawing.

In August our Back-to-School program gave 510 children backpacks filled with a variety of school supplies as well as peanut butter and jelly for lunches. This was a 40% increase over last year's distribution.

Thank you to all the churches, community groups and individuals who made these distributions successful!



## ADOPT A CHILD OR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

*Holiday Shopping Reminder*

Our annual **Adopt a Child or Family Program** has been very successful in the past, and we are looking forward to it again this year. If you are interested in participating, we need you to respond as soon as possible and **no later than Monday, November 14th.**

- ◆ To adopt an individual it is necessary to plan on a minimum expense of **\$25.00.**
- ◆ Wrapped and tagged gifts must be delivered to the Pantry by **Monday, December 5th.**
- ◆ No time to shop?? Our volunteer shoppers can relieve the stress of holiday shopping by using your monetary donations to fulfill wishes such as a bicycle, movie tickets, gift cards, etc.
- ◆ Please remember the sooner we know the number of donations we can count on, the better we are able to fulfill our gift requests.
- ◆ Donations received **after November 14th** will be used to fulfill the remaining children's wishes.
- ◆ Please email us at [lordspantry@verizon.net](mailto:lordspantry@verizon.net) with your request, giving specific details as to the number of individuals you are able to adopt or sponsor. Monetary donations should be mailed to the Pantry.

## Special Thanks

The success of the Pantry is dependent upon so many generous individuals and local companies. The following businesses donate to the Pantry on a regular basis, and we encourage you to recognize their donations by patronizing them.

- \*Acme
- \*Auntie Anne's
- \*Bottom Dollar
- \*Chipotle
- \*Genuardi's
- \*Giant
- \*Olive Garden
- \*Petco
- \*Pepperidge Farm
- \*Sam's Club
- \*ShopRite
- \*Starbucks
- \*Target
- \*Wegmans
- \*BJ's

Thanks go out to the following for fundraising and donation efforts.....

- ING - Monetary donations and volunteer service
- Macy's - "Shop for a Cause" event, monetary donations and volunteer service
- Sara Lee - Proceeds from liquidation of office supplies
- Hopewell United Methodist Church - Donated 161 backpacks for Back-to-School!!
- All the volunteers who donated produce from gleaning and private gardens throughout the summer.



## Join Us For A Night In Italy

**Thursday, November 17, 2011**  
**The Bistro at Our Town**  
**282 Main Street at Exton**  
**BYOB**



**Call early for dinner reservations - 484-872-8793**  
**Large Groups are Welcome!!**

**10% of all the proceeds will be donated directly to Lord's Pantry**

*It's a wonderful way to gather with good friends for a great cause...*

## Board Corner

As I approach the conclusion of my second term as Board Chairman, it seems appropriate to share some thoughts about the Lord's Pantry, particularly its evolution over the past six years.

Securing the necessary funds to acquire a permanent residence for the Pantry in 2005 was a significant accomplishment and one that solidified the infrastructure of the organization on a long-term basis.

Several things have changed over the ensuing years. Few would have imagined the unprecedented increase in annual client demand, driven by an unyielding economic downturn and poverty levels that would have been considered unheard of in the Chester County area. It was never anticipated that every square foot of our building would be needed to serve clients and

store inventory. Services have also been augmented to assist clients with the eligibility process for other programs to help meet their needs.

The tremendous growth in donations by individuals, retail establishments and other organizations has enabled the Lord's Pantry to meet those increasing client needs and to improve the offering with healthier foods. To maintain the Pantry's long-term viability, that support will be even more critical in the years ahead.

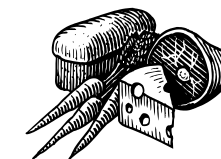
One aspect that has remained constant is the cornerstone of the organization--- **our tremendous volunteer staff.**

Working with Jan and the team of volunteers and seeing the number of hours they commit every single week is truly an inspiration. Their value extends far beyond the economic benefit and

that is evidenced by listening to our clients continuously attest to the respect and worth that they feel whenever they visit the Pantry.

It has been a real pleasure working with Jan and Linda in this role...their work is really beyond description, as well as serving with a terrific board of directors and a dedicated volunteer staff. The opportunity has been greatly appreciated.

**Kenneth Ross**  
**Board Chairman**



### Board Members

- Kenneth Ross - *President*
- Gretchen Englund - *Secretary*
- George Marion - *Treasurer*
- Al Brady
- Jan Leaf
- Linda McAssey
- Bill Seybold
- Lee Wallace
- Kevin Zeeger

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

Pantry to Help Clients Obtain Heating Grants & Budget Household Funds

A busy year continues for the Lord's Pantry **Benefits Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP)**. Beginning November 1st, volunteer benefits counselors will assist dozens of clients in applying for winter heating assistance through Pennsylvania's Low-Income Heating Assistance Program, LIHEAP. Also, two mid-November workshops are planned to train clients on how to better manage their funds and anticipate expenses. For details, call the Pantry's BEAP desk at (610) 873-4711.

BEAP's seven volunteer counselors help clients to identify benefits for which they may be eligible, complete applications (usually online) and submit necessary supporting documents. For programs without an online application process, the counselors assist with hard copy applications or in scheduling clients to apply in person where necessary. Since 2010, BEAP has successfully helped clients to obtain Food Stamps; Cash Assistance; Medicaid; PA Rent and Property Tax Rebates; LIHEAP grants; nutritional aid for Women, Infants, and Children; free medical services through Community Volunteers In Medicine (CVIM); free basic cell phone service; emergency rent assistance through Chester County's Building Bridges; shared housing through Home of the Sparrow; supplementary heating grants for elderly through a local charity; and lower electric bills through the discount rates and usage reduction programs. When clients have needed other help to get through short-term financial crises, BEAP volunteers have also worked with Lord's Pantry leadership to obtain emergency funds from various local charities and benevolent individuals.

Success stories abound – many client families credit the Pantry with allowing them to finally get benefits after being denied before, being able to finally make ends meet and help avert evictions, electrical shut-offs, and homelessness. One client wrote: "You don't know how much your kindness and assistance has changed my way of life....I thank God for the help you have given me at a point in my life when I was ready to give up."

**Randy Blough, BEAP Counselor**



### Dates to Remember

**November 19th**  
**Thanksgiving Basket Distribution** at Downingtown West High School cafeteria. If interested in donating a turkey or making a monetary donation, please call the Lord's Pantry before **November 14th.**

**December 10th**  
**Christmas Distribution** at Downingtown West High School Cafeteria. To participate in our "Adopt a Child or Family" for Christmas gifts see details on Page 2.