



141 East Lancaster Ave.
Downingtown, PA 19335

Phone: 610-873-1149 BEAP: 484-237-8797
Fax: 610-873-4711

Email: info@Lordspantrypa.org
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.
*Open Saturdays in November 9am-12noon

NONPROFIT ORG.
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Fall 2018

On a Wing
And a Prayer



Volume 14, Issue 2

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Many thanks to all of the schools, churches, corporations and individuals who donated the harvest from their gardens. Our families were treated to an abundance of fresh produce that they are always delighted to receive.

The summer months were extremely busy for us as we held our Christmas in July Distribution (supplied 283 households with personal care items and cleaning products), Sneaker Distribution (supplied 304 registered school age-children, 61 veterans and 87 seniors with brand new sneakers and socks), our Summer Lunch Program (supplied 359 children with additional food) and our Back to School Distribution (supplied 307 registered school-age child with a new backpack filled with school supplies). We are currently working on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

I'm sure by now everyone has seen the articles relating to what is being described as a "tsunami" of product to be released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To clarify, while we will probably receive some additional food, I guarantee you it will not be a tractor trailer full (as one article insinuated). Our concern is that our donors will read these articles and think we are overloaded with food. Just to give you an example, in our last fiscal year the donated food we received through the federal and state combined was less than 1% of the food we distributed! We depend solely on individual, corporate and organizational donations to keep the Pantry in operation. It is only through the generosity of our donors that we are able to provide our families with the quantity and quality of food they receive.

On one of those scorching days this summer as I was walking through our registration room, I passed this adorable little 7 year old girl. She looked up at me and said, "I don't know why they turned our electric off." She commented on how nice it was to be at the Pantry in the air conditioned room. Before the family left, through our Benefits Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP), we were able to enroll the family in a payment program with PECO and partnered with another agency to pay their overdue bill. As I know I have mentioned before, the most rewarding part of working at the Pantry is not only knowing that in a small way you are making a difference in the lives of the people we serve, it is also a daily reminder of how blessed you are and how much we take for granted.

Everyone at the Pantry wishes you and your families a most joyous holiday season.

Jan Leaf, Executive Director



HELP WANTED

**Volunteers to assist
Clients with Shopping
and Sorting Donations**

**Thursday Evenings
5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

**Please email us at:
info@LordsPantryPA.org**

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

Recipient's Information

Name: _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Circle one: In Honor of In Memory 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**



Lord's Pantry Benefit Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP)

Pantry to Help Clients Obtain Medicare Savings, Heating Grants, Property Tax Relief

A busy year continues for the Lord's Pantry Benefits Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP). In September, Pantry clients 65 years or older were mailed information on how to apply for Medicare savings programs that would pay their Part B premiums, deductibles, and co-pays. Qualifying clients could save over \$1600 each year. Beginning November 1, BEAP counselors will assist clients in applying for winter heating assistance through Pennsylvania's Low-Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Qualifying clients will receive assistance with a heating bill and will be eligible for crisis grants up to \$500 to have a heater repaired or a shut-off notice averted. Over the winter, BEAP will strive to make sure that all clients who own their homes are receiving the PA Homestead Exclusion for their school taxes. The homestead exclusion is a tax-relief measure that reduces school property taxes by lowering the assessed value of a property and, therefore, the amount of tax owed. Residents in the Downingtown School District typically save over \$200 a year if approved for the exclusion. BEAP will facilitate the paperwork (one-page form) for each interested client. Further, clients who own their mobile home on a rented lot (i.e. in a mobile home park) will be offered assistance in appealing their property tax assessments. Mobile homes depreciate rapidly but tax assessments are not lowered unless the owner appeals. An appropriate adjustment to an assessment set 15 years ago can lower an owner's tax liability by 70-90%. Counselors will help complete the paperwork and attend the appeal hearings with the clients. These efforts complement BEAP's daily mission to help our clients become more independent, self-sufficient, and secure. Thank you for your support of the Lord's Pantry that allows BEAP to provide these vital services to our clients.

Kevin Zeeger, BEAP Coordinator

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Pantry's Benefit Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP) was started by five Pantry volunteers as an expression of their intent to more effectively care for our clients. Our team of counselors provides one-on-one assistance with benefit applications, submits support documents to the state, and provides education, information and referrals to a network of local agencies. None had any formal training but felt empowered by compassion and love to make a difference and jumped into the fray. We currently have an opportunity for an interested member of our community to join the BEAP team as a counselor. We are particularly in need of someone who speaks Spanish. No experience is necessary – you will get on-the-job training by a current counselor and be allowed to work at your own pace. Most counselors work one 2-hour shift a week.

If interested please contact Kevin at 484-237-8797.

www.LordsPantryofDowningtown.org

Board Members

Al Brady - *President*

Karl Fetscher - *Secretary*

George Marion - *Treasurer*

Jan Leaf

Randy Longo

Linda McAssey

Shelley O'Neill

Lee Wallace

Kevin Zeeger

Thanks go out to the following for their donation efforts:

St. Elizabeth, St. Joseph and Sts. Philip and James Catholic Churches for their major food drives.

Hopewell United Methodist for supplying over 200 school backpacks and supplies for Back-to-School.

Messiah Lutheran Church for the proceeds from their annual Golf Outing and their volunteers for their donation of fresh produce and stocking shelves.



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 Tuesday, November 6th**.

- ◆ To adopt an individual, it is necessary to plan on a minimum expense of **\$30.00**.
- ◆ Wrapped and tagged gifts may be delivered to the Pantry **during our hours of operation** from **now** until our deadline of **Monday, December 3rd**.
- ◆ 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 coat, boots, 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.
- ◆ Monetary donations and gift cards are welcome **after November 6th** to fulfill the remaining childrens' wishes.
- ◆ Please email us at Info@Lordspantrypa.org with your request, giving specific details as to the number of individuals you are able to adopt or sponsor.
- ◆ Monetary donations noting "Christmas" can be mailed to: Lord's Pantry, 141 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335

BOARD CORNER

There are so many people involved in helping the Pantry serve the needy in our community. Most importantly is the leadership of the Pantry and all the volunteers that make the Pantry function day to day, as well as the volunteers who pick up food donations and deliver food to our homebound.

Last Saturday I was thinking about all the people involved as I was helping clean the potatoes that had just been harvested for the Pantry by the Knights of Columbus of St. Elizabeth Parish. They planted them in a donated field off route 100, tended them during the growing season and harvested them last Saturday after several weeks of weather delay. Over the years they have harvested and donated many thousands of pounds of potatoes to the Pantry.

I am sure we have all heard the expression "It takes a village". Our donors and volunteers certainly comprise our "village" and enable the Pantry to provide the assistance to our neighbors. We are very grateful for all who support.

Al Brady, Board President

"No One Should Suffer From Hunger"



Saturday Hours

Donation Hours will be extended during the month of **November** to include **Saturday** mornings **9 am to 12 noon**

Dates to Remember

November 17th
Thanksgiving Basket Distribution
Downingtown West High School Cafeteria. If interested in donating a turkey or making a monetary donation, please call the Lord's Pantry before November 13th.

December 8th
Christmas Distribution
Downingtown West High School Cafeteria. To participate in our "Adopt a Child or Family" for Christmas gifts see details above.

**THANKS TO
PETCO & PET VALUE
FOR THEIR DONATION OF PET
FOOD & SUPPLIES
TO OUR CLIENTS' FURRY
FRIENDS**

