



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 supplemental 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.

Lord's Pantry is an Equal Opportunity Provider

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
WEST CHESTER, PA
PERMIT, NO. 354

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Spring 2019

On a Wing
and a Prayer



From Jan's Desk

Good riddance to the ice and snow! Trying to compensate for late and/or cancelled deliveries is always a challenge. Hunger doesn't take a break during inclement weather, and we are always amazed at the number of our families who venture out.

We prepared and braced ourselves for the Government shut down not knowing exactly what impact it would have on us. The demand we anticipated never materialized and the largest inconvenience was assisting some of our families who were experiencing disruptions with their food stamps.

This year, as hard as it may be to imagine in our affluent Chester County, we have assisted more of our clients living in their cars or in wooded areas than ever before. The creativity demonstrated by these people is commendable. A \$10 gym membership guarantees a shower, hanging in a variety of establishments supplies air conditioning, and meals can be obtained from a \$1.00 menu and/or cooking on a portable grill. Some families resorted to using their savings to live in a budget hotel while working and saving for a security deposit and their first month rent. Many of our families live paycheck to paycheck, and if they incur a burden that prevents them from meeting their financial responsibilities, they suffer from anxiety and stress which inhibits their ability to deal with these situations. Through referrals to other organizations and our Emergency Fund, we have been able to assist some of these clients to overcome their adversities.

In a continued effort to best serve the needs of our families, we periodically conduct an anonymous survey to disclose unmet needs. The survey also encourages comments on their Pantry experiences. The information recently gathered indicated the majority of our families were satisfied with both the quantity and quality of the food offered. Perhaps the most surprising request received was for more pet food! We do receive and offer a limited amount of donated dog and cat food, but our mission does not support purchasing pet food. Realizing the comfort and companionship derived from pets, if any pet lovers would be interested in conducting a pet food drive or making a designated donation toward pet food, I'm sure our families would welcome your assistance.

Last, but not least, we are hopeful that the many tax law changes this year will not have a detrimental impact on charitable giving. The amount of food we receive from the Federal and State Government represents less than 1% of the food we distribute. Our entire service depends on the generosity of our donors. We are blessed and appreciative of all of you that continue to support us and allow us to continue our mission of feeding our neighbors.

Jan Leaf, Executive Director

Volume 15, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Board Corner	2
BEAP Program	3
Upcoming Events	3
Special Gift	4

Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ The Easter Ham Program will provide our families with a ham and Easter candy for their children.
- ◆ A Special thank you to St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church CYO for their large food drives!
- ◆ Thanks to Messiah Lutheran Church for their support and proceeds from their golf outing.
- ◆ Please support the Lord's Pantry through Amazon Smile 

Special Occasion Gift

Would you like to do something to honor someone meaningful in your life? Remember a special occasion - like a birthday, Mother's/Father's Day. 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.

Your Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Recipient's Information

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Circle one: In Honor of or In Memory of

What occasion— birthday —Mother's/Father's Day How would you like the card to be signed?

Thank you for your tax deductible donation!

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

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

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

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



Board Corner

“The poor you will always have with you.....”

That may seem to some a callous statement, but history has shown it to be true. Poverty has existed through all history, long before Jesus’ time.

From time to time some altruistic people and cultures have aspired to eliminate poverty. It is an admirable goal, but history has proven it to be a futile effort. But that does not mean we should ignore that poverty exists in the world, particularly the poverty, that exists in our own communities. We cannot eliminate poverty, but we can help to alleviate the burden of those living in poverty in our community. That is the mission of the Lord’s Pantry.

Starting over 50 years ago by giving away a bag of basic groceries, we have evolved to the equivalent of a small grocery store providing a full spectrum of groceries for 10 to 12 days out of a month, including fresh meat, produce, milk, eggs, cheese, butter, yogurt, sliced bread, a variety of canned goods, condiments, spices etc.

Over the years we have added programs to address what we perceive and/or our clients express a desire for:

- Thanksgiving dinner program which includes everything you could want for Thanksgiving dinner and a full breakfast the next day.
- Our adopt-a-family Christmas program when we provide presents for over 500 children in response to their requests.
- Back-to-school supplies for school-age children which includes a backpack filled with supplies.
- Sneaker program where once a year we provide a quality pair of sneakers to children, veterans and seniors.
- Home deliveries to those clients who are home bound.
- Summer lunch program to families with children who during the school year get their lunch at school.
- BEAP.....Our counselors review with the client and assist them in receiving aid from every federal, state, county and private agency program for which they are eligible.

None of this is possible without our dedicated volunteers and your continuing support for which we are very grateful.

Al Brady, Board President

Special Thanks

We would like to recognize the following stores for participating in Philabundance's Grocers Against Hunger and donating to the Lord's Pantry.

Acme B.J.'s Giant Target Shop Rite

Board Members

Al Brady - *President*

Karl Fetscher - *Secretary*

George Marion - *Treasurer*

Jan Leaf

Randy Longo

Linda McAssey

Shelley O'Neill

Lee Wallace

Kevin Zeeger



Benefit Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP)

The Pantry's Benefit Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP) helps our clients apply for social service benefits, provides case management and finds referrals for other services to meet their food, housing and medical needs. Many clients are not aware of their eligibility for benefits or how to enroll. It is essential that our clients know of these opportunities.

Clients have varied abilities and expectations when it comes to enrolling for benefits, and the application process has often been a significant obstacle to getting enrolled, particularly in healthcare. Many also face challenges such as limited access to technology, low literacy skills, and language or cultural barriers.

BEAP counselors provide one-on-one assistance to navigate the enrollment process in many different ways - online, by phone, in person, or through a traditional mail-in application. Also, household budgeting classes and employment opportunities are on-going points of emphasis. Since its inception in 2010, BEAP has helped 1,975 clients, assisting with 1,167 program enrollments and 1,290 referrals to other programs and services. BEAP's volunteer counselors are Randy Blough, Rob Chapman, Elaine Coia Neary, Bill Seybold and Kevin Zeeger.

Thanks to all who support the Pantry and make BEAP possible.

Kevin Zeeger, BEAP Coordinator

UPCOMING EVENTS



Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive"—will be held **Saturday, May 11, 2019** — The National Association of Letter Carriers' Food Drive is our largest annual food drive. This drive usually brings in an average of 3 tons of food that we depend on to help us through the summer months when donations typically decline. This is a national food drive, and we encourage you to remember to put non-perishable food items at your mailbox (rain or shine) for this annual collection (**please no expired products**).

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

Sock Collection- We are collecting **new athletic socks** in all sizes to be given out with our **Sneaker Distribution**. Drop off at the Pantry during our hours of operation before **June 30, 2019**.

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 by **July 25th** and designated **"Back-to-School"**.

"Over 50 Years of Service to the Community"