



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

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Fall 2019

On a Wing  
And a Prayer



Volume 15, Issue 2

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### From Jan's Desk

The summer months certainly were busy at the Pantry. In addition to our Summer Lunch Program (providing each registered family with children additional food while the children are home all day), we also held our Sneaker Program (providing 429 brand new pairs of designer sneakers and socks to each school-aged child, veteran and senior). This year, through the generosity of one of our donors, we acquired an ice cream truck to treat everyone to ice cream during our Sneaker Distribution. We just completed our Back to School Program (providing each child with a brand new backpack and school supplies). There is no "down time", as preparations for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Distributions are well underway.

Despite the thriving economy, we have encountered more homeless people than ever before. Many of our clients have been forced to "rent a room" because they cannot afford an apartment on their own. One of our single moms with three children is living in an RV parked on a private property. The variety of hardship cases that arrive at our door is endless. We are currently assisting a couple in their late 50's. As a result of the wife having stage 4 breast cancer, the husband lost his job due to caring for his wife, which then caused them to lose their health insurance and their home in Maryland. They arrived in this area after securing a grant to receive an experimental treatment. They are living in a hotel, paid for by many churches and organizations working together, and have limited capability to cook. We have been supplying them with whatever food they can use. Another current case is a double amputee veteran preparing to move into his very first apartment. Many of these cases involve partnering with or referring them to the appropriate agencies. One thing for sure - you never leave the Pantry without counting your blessings.

We are so grateful for all of our faithful donors whose compassion allows us to continue to serve our community's needs.

On behalf of all of us at the Lord's Pantry, we would like to wish you and your families a very Happy Holiday Season!

Jan Leaf, Executive Director

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### HELP WANTED

Volunteers to assist  
Clients with Shopping  
and Sorting Donations

Monday Mornings  
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

#### Recipient's Information

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

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

Circle one: In Honor of      In Memory 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



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

A busy year continues for the Lord's Pantry Benefits Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP).

BEAP volunteers assisted dozens of clients with signing up for 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 volunteers, working with the Honey Brook Food Pantry, the United Way, and Legal Aid, prepared and submitted property tax assessment appeals for 177 area families who own their mobile home on a rented lot (i.e. in a mobile home park). Mobile homes depreciate rapidly but tax assessments are not lowered unless the owner appeals. All appeals were successful and the average reduction in the families' tax liability was 70%. Ten of those families were Pantry clients; factoring in the savings from the Homestead Exclusion, the average tax savings for these families was 87%. One Pantry client, a 66-year-old woman raising four grandchildren, will see her property taxes drop from \$1,178 in 2019 to around \$29 in 2020. Plans are already being made for a broader effort next 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. Hope grows in a stable home, 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.

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**

#### Board Members

**Al Brady - President**

**George Marion - Treasurer**

**Karl Fetscher**

**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 250 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.**



**Please consider using AmazonSmile Foundation when shopping on Amazon. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the purchase price of all eligible products when you select "Lord S Pantry of Downingtown" as your charity.**



## 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 2nd.**
- ◆ 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](mailto: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

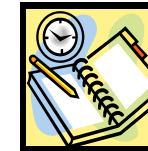
## BOARD CORNER

Last year the Lord's Pantry served 5,821 households consisting of 17,571 individuals. That is an average of 485 households served each month. It is only through your generosity that we are able to serve our neighbors in need.

Almost 2/3 of our funds come from donations from individuals and local organizations such as churches, schools and businesses. The balance comes from grants. Unfortunately, we have not had a grant writer for almost a year, and the grants we have received have declined by more than half. We have recently engaged a new grant writer and expect to remedy this situation.

The real message is how much we depend on you for the financial support needed to fulfill our mission. However, our philosophy is not to inundate our donors with numerous solicitations. We are deeply grateful for what you have done and we are hopeful that you will continue to support the Lord's Pantry.

**Al Brady, Board President**



## Saturday Hours

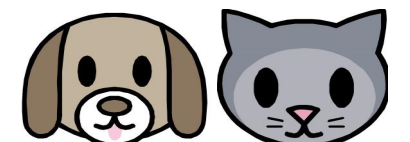
Donation Hours will be extended during the month of **November** to include **Saturday** mornings **9 am to 12 noon**

### Dates to Remember

**November 23rd 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 7th 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**



*"No One Should Suffer From Hunger"*