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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 2023

On a Wing  
and a Prayer



## From Jan's Desk

A huge "Thank You" to all who participated in our \$10,000 Challenge! We surpassed our goal by more than double the amount - the final total being \$27,000 ! Our very generous donor was moved to include an additional \$2,000 !

Spring is finally here and everything is starting to bloom and turn green. For most of our families, warmer weather means lower utility bills. Current economic conditions continue to drive prices up on everything leaving many of our families unable to keep up with their household bills. Since the supplemental SNAP benefits have terminated on March 31<sup>st</sup>, a record number of our families are returning from years ago. We are seeing families combining households and homelessness is on the rise. There are individuals "couch surfing" at friends' homes or even living in wooded areas. We do our best to meet their needs by providing food they are capable of safely storing and/or cooking.

Recently, three of our clients suffered fires in their homes. Two of those clients were also "flood victims" in 2021! They contacted us knowing we would help them both with immediate shelter and navigating resources available to them. One of them appeared in our office the morning after the fire in a daze with his arm singed from the fire. Luckily everyone made it out safely but his phone was destroyed and he needed to contact family and friends. We were able to help him contact the Red Cross, make calls and give him some gift cards for clothes. One of the men commented, "Okay - flood - fire - just let me know when the plague comes to Downingtown."

In the last year, with food prices continuing to rise, we spent 86% of our budget on Food Acquisition and Special Distributions. As everyone knows, eggs have increased by almost 200%. Despite their cost, we continued to purchase them due to their nutritional value.

The only way we are able to continue to meet our neighbors' needs is through the support of all of our faithful and generous donors. Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer.

Jan Leaf  
Executive Director

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Volume 19, Issue 1

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### Special Points of Interest:

- ◆ A Special thank you to Downingtown United Methodist Church for their generosity in providing Easter Dinners.
- ◆ Thank you to the following DASD Elementary Schools: Beaver Creek, Pickering Valley and West Bradford for their "Domino Challenge" which collected over 3,000 boxes of cereal!

## Summer Lunch Program

**We provide a bag of additional "kid friendly" foods for families with children each month. Please consider sponsoring a family.**

**One bag of food costs \$50**

**\$50      \$75      \$100      \$150      \$200**

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**Designate donation for "Summer Lunch Program"**

**Visit our website to donate online: [LordsPantryofDowningtown.org](http://LordsPantryofDowningtown.org)**

**or mail donations to:**

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

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

**Thank you for your tax deductible donation!**



# Board Corner

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Not long ago, I received a phone call from someone I met after her home was flooded by Hurricane Ida. She shared with me that a neighbor's home was on fire and that because of smoke and water damage, they were once again without a place to live. Tragically, this family had just gotten back into their home after all the flood damage repair had been completed.

Before the fire had even been put out, Jan Leaf arranged with a local hotel for a week's stay. While this wasn't a long-term solution, it was one less thing for this family to worry about while they began to put the pieces back together. I later learned that a national disaster relief agency was able to provide them with a \$300 voucher, several days after the fire.

While our primary role is to provide supplemental food assistance, the Lord's Pantry is often able to help in other ways. We maintain a small fund that allows us to provide immediate assistance where it is needed most. We are on the ground and know people in the community, as evidenced by the neighbor's outreach before the fire was even under control.

The Lord's Pantry of Downingtown is a small organization but because of the commitment of our 100% volunteer staff and the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors in this community, we are able to provide help when and where it is needed most. Of course, this is all made possible by our donors, whose generosity knows no bounds. We are thankful and filled with gratitude for your support.

Sandy D'Amico  
Board President

## Special Thanks

We would like to recognize the following for donating to the Lord's Pantry:

Acme Aldi B.J.'s Crop's  
Giant Snyder's Target Wegmans



## Affordable Housing Shortage

"Fresh Start" is a designated program funded by one of our donors. This program enables us to provide assistance in a variety of situations. For example, helping veterans placed in our serving area by the VA with basic needs like towels, bedding, dishes, silverware, pots and pans. We recently partnered with other organizations to fund a security deposit for a domestic violence victim. She was "couch surfing" with her three children so that they could stay in the Downingtown School District. You never know what challenges will arise from day to day at the Pantry.

Housing in our area remains a major problem. We have encountered some individuals living out of their cars while they try to locate affordable housing. Some of these individuals refuse to go to a shelter because they do not want their families split up, they fear for their personal safety or they choose not to follow the rules of the shelters (i.e., pets). Families are often temporarily forced to live in budget hotels because they cannot find affordable housing or have enough money for a security deposit and the first month's rent. Others choose to live in wooded areas, mostly due to mental health issues. Despite our urging them to go to a shelter they continue to refuse, and the only thing we can do is try to make sure they have food.

## Most Requested Items



We welcome the surplus vegetables from your garden!

**Personal care items (toothpaste, shampoo & conditioner, deodorant & feminine products), cleaning supplies and paper products (paper towels & tissues) are greatly appreciated!**

**Our Back-to-School Distribution in August needs New Large Backpacks for Middle and High School students.**

**Backpacks and monetary donations should be submitted to the Pantry by July 25th and designated "Back-to-School."**



"Over 50 Years of Service to the Community"