



Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund November 2011 Newsletter

Monthly Statistics

In September 2011 the pantry registered 27 new client families. During the 12 days we were open, the pantry served 223 households including 332 children. 882 bags of food were distributed.

In October 2011 the pantry registered 25 new client families. This is double the number we were registering just one year ago. During the 13 days we were open, the pantry served 208 households including 284 children. 671 bags of food were distributed.

In 2011 we noticed a growing number of Senior Citizens coming to the pantry so we are now keeping track of this statistic. In October 49 Senior households visited the pantry.

Over 50% of the food distributed went to residents of the City of Bowie.

Each month the pantry serves families, single adults, senior citizens, the disabled, and the homeless. It is hard to imagine, but there are homeless living here in the Bowie area.

No matter what the situation, all who are served by the pantry are thankful to you for keeping food on our shelves during these difficult economic times.

Upcoming Events

November 8, 2011 – Pantry Evening Hours 6:00pm-7:00pm

November 11, 2011 – Free Yoga Class to benefit the pantry sponsored by Imagine Yoga & Wellness Center 11:00am

November 12, 2011 – Scouting Food Drive

November 13, 2011 – Church of Christ Food Drive

November 21 & 23, 2011 –Thanksgiving Basket Distribution 9:00-12:00noon
Please Note: Only for clients who have signed up for a basket/turkey; NO walk-ins

November 25, 2011 – Pantry Closed

December 13, 2011 – Pantry Evening Hours 6:00pm-7:00pm

Greatest Needs

Canned fruit/applesauce
Peanut Butter
Canned chick peas
Cereal/Oatmeal
Toilet Paper
Toiletries
Fresh fruit – bagged or loose
Fresh vegetables – bagged or loose

Pantry News

Recent Food Drives

The pantry thanks the following for their very successful food drives during the month of October:

Temple Solel
Cresthill Baptist Church
Berwyn Rod and Gun Club
Crop Walk
Bowie High School – NHS

October was the first month in a LONG time that we didn't have to buy a lot of food!!

Pantry DVD

Due to the vision and dedication of volunteer Jack Jenkins, the pantry now has a 15 minute DVD which focuses on hunger, the work of the pantry, and the support of the Bowie community. We appreciate all the time, effort, and talent Jack put into this project. He wrote, produced, directed, filmed, and edited the DVD! We also thank his lovely wife Connie for providing much of the narration. We plan to show the DVD at upcoming events.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Each year the pantry provides baskets of food and turkeys to our client families. Completed baskets and turkeys should be brought to the pantry no later than Friday, November 18. If you or your group plan to supply baskets and/or turkeys, please let us know. Many of our smaller families have requested chickens. We also plan to distribute butter and eggs to our clients.

Girl Scout Silver Award Project

Kristin Watson completed her Girl Scout Silver Award Project entitled "Picture Bowie without Hunger." Her efforts resulted in several shopping carts full of donations for the pantry. On behalf of our clients, we thank Kristin for her hard work and dedication.

City of Bowie

Community Outreach Committee

The pantry extends a huge and heartfelt thank you to the Community Outreach Committee which works year round to collect donations for the pantry. They make sure bins are available at the Bowie International Festival, Bowie Fest, Summer Concert Series as well as at Kenhill Center, Bowie Gym and Bowie Senior Center. Special thanks to Dale Grant who brings the donations to the pantry each week.

Toy Collection

Preparations are under way for our annual "toy room." Volunteers set up a room where our moms and/or dads can come and pick out a toy for each of their children as well as stocking stuffers. Donations of new or nearly new toys are now being accepted. We also need wrapping paper, tags, bows, gift bags, etc. Some of our families are adopted by various groups, but there are many more children who need our help. Items should be brought to the pantry no later than December 16. Our children range in age from infant to 18; especially needed are items for young teens.



Suggested items for Thanksgiving Basket

Cranberry Sauce	Mushroom Soup
Gravy	Stuffing
Pumpkin pie mix OR	Olives
Fruit pie filling	Canned Vegetables
Pie Crust – not refrigerated	Corn Muffin mix
Mashed Potatoes – box	Jello
Canned Sweet Potatoes	Snack Items

Perishable items: Eggs, Butter, Turkey or Chicken

Anything else that would make a delicious Thanksgiving meal!

Our Mission

We are a community-based social services program providing emergency food and financial assistance* to those in Bowie and Prince George's County, who are experiencing need – without regard to race, creed or gender. If we are unable to meet the needs, we will make referrals to others who may be able to provide the needed assistance.

To serve with respect, dignity and without discrimination those in need in our community by providing food, financial assistance and other resource referrals.

*Financial assistance is available to residents of the City of Bowie

Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesdays, Fridays 9:00-11:00am
2nd Tuesday evening of each month 6:00-7:00pm

Contact Information

301-262-6765
www.bowiefoodpantry.org
bowiefoodpantry@gmail.com

Additional Ways to Support the Pantry

Every Second Counts Consignment Boutique

Hilltop Plaza - in the rear parking lot

Owner: Dina Bennett

Phone Number: [301-262-7713](tel:301-262-7713)

Website: <http://laverneandmark.com/ESCCB/>

Hours:

Tuesday through Friday

11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Saturday

11:00 AM to 5:00 PM

You can consign items -- on behalf of the food pantry -- at the Every Second Counts consignment boutique, by calling owner Dina Bennett in advance and making an appointment to come in and have her look over their stuff. Food pantry gets 50 percent of the selling price; the store gets 50 percent.

ebay's "Giving Works"

The pantry is a designated charity/non-profit on ebay's "Giving Works" site for any ebay seller who wants to designate a portion of sales to the pantry.

You don't even have to buy things on ebay to donate to the pantry on ebay. If you have a PayPal account (ebay owns PayPal), you can make an online donation to the pantry on ebay through the Ebay Giving Works part of the ebay website. The administering organization MissionFish takes 3.75 percent of each donation for administration costs.

Here is an ebay link that takes a person through the donation process:

<http://www.ebaygivingworks.com/donatenow.html>

Donation Drop Off Sites

- Bowie Interfaith Pantry
- Bowie Gymnasium
- Bowie Library
- Bowie Senior Center
- CCPC Narthex
- Every Second Counts Boutique in Hilltop Shopping Center
- Kenhill Center
- Long and Foster (Now in Crofton)
- PNC Bank (Route 450 and Stonybrook Drive)