



Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund October 2011 Newsletter

Busiest Summer in Pantry History

The Bowie Interfaith Pantry and Emergency Aid Fund is on pace to have its busiest year ever. The pantry, established in 2004 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, has been in existence in various forms for almost 50 years.

In August 2011 the pantry registered 46 new client families compared to 12 in August 2010. The number of client visits increased from 191 to 415. During an average month the pantry served nearly 200 children, but that number has grown to 333. A year ago the pantry distributed an average of 500 bags a month; this August 1,176 bags of groceries were distributed.

In other words in one month the pantry gave out:

- 1,176 cans of tuna fish**
- 588 jars of peanut butter or jelly**
- 3,528 cans of vegetables**
- 2,352 cans of soup**
- 1,176 cans of beans**

A huge and heartfelt thank you to all who donated food items or contributed money to the pantry this summer. We would not have been able to keep up with the increased demand without your support!

Upcoming Events

October 15, 2011 – Cresthill Baptist Church – Pantry Benefit Concert
7:00pm

November 5, 2011 – St. Matthew's United Methodist Church Annual Craft Show – pantry donations accepted; Dick's notecards and photos will be on sale

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

November 12, 2011 – Scouting Food Drive

November 13, 2011 – Church of Christ Food Drive

Thanksgiving Baskets distributed – TBD

Greatest Needs

- Canned fruit/applesauce
 - Canned mixed vegetables
 - Dry beans
 - Canned chick peas
 - Canned baked beans
 - Oatmeal
 - Tea Bags
 - Toilet Paper
 - Fresh fruit – bagged or loose
 - Fresh vegetables – bagged or loose
-

Pantry News

Changes Made To Accommodate Increasing Numbers

The pantry is open to all residents of Prince George's County who meet income guidelines. Over half the food is distributed to families living in the Bowie area. Donations to the pantry have remained steady, but the need has increased so much that the pantry has had to change the number of times some clients can visit the pantry. Most clients are eligible to come twice a month while others may come once a month. Everyone who was eligible to come to the pantry before is still eligible to come for food.

Dick Arnold's Book

For a \$30 donation, you can receive a copy of "Backyard Treasures", a collection of photographs by Dick Arnold. Book provided courtesy of Dick Arnold. The pantry thanks Dick for sharing his time and talent on behalf of the less fortunate.

Eagle Scout Projects

Andy Suddeth earned the rank of Eagle Scout by hosting a food drive for the pantry in April. His hope is to have the scouts do a national food drive in the spring in addition to the one in November.

John Rajnes completed construction of a community garden on CCPC property. The garden is composed of three separate beds. The pantry looks forward to its first crop of vegetables next summer!

Recipe Booklet

Recently the pantry began handing out a six-page recipe leaflet developed by a board secretary and volunteer Sarah Crim that includes a range of recipes based on the items that typically go into the pre-packed bags of groceries. One such recipe is for a mix-and-match casserole that can substitute in a variety of different food items. Earlier this year Sarah put together a list of recipes using French bread.

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

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)