



# There are great things happening at our Food Pantry

Since April there has been some incredible things happening at our FUMC Food Pantry. We are averaging over 15,000 pounds of food per month since January 2020! – at that rate we expect to exceed 180,000 pounds of food to our brothers and sisters this year.

We have an ecumenical partnership with other downtown churches for financial support, food supplies and volunteers. St George's donated their reserves of food, The Presbyterian Church has provided volunteers and a lot of financial support, Hillcrest UMC collects and donates food and Tabernacle UMC has blessed us with a couple of mother-daughter volunteer duos that do everything. In addition, we have been delivering 64 monthly senior food boxes to Mill Park Terrace with the help of the Fawn Lake Men's group and some volunteers from the Food Bank (a.k.a. the Fab Four).

## Volunteers

A troop of volunteers from 5 different churches (FUMC, St. George's, the Presbyterian Church, Hillcrest UMC and Tabernacle UMC) serve to help receive deliveries, pack hundreds of bags, repackage food and distribute the food Mondays – Saturdays every week.

**Volunteers are still our weakest link** as Virginia continues to “open up”, schools start back up and folks get back to what we used to understand as “normal”. Stay tuned for coming news on changes to gain more volunteers and also meet different needs we are hearing about in the community. We have extended our sign-up list into the fall so feel free to pop your name in a spot and share the link with your family and friends.



<https://tinyurl.com/PantryHelp>

## Food donations

Countless members of Fredericksburg United Methodist Church, Hillcrest UMC and others have donated hundreds of pounds of food that has helped sustain us during these high demand times. We are in a really good place with food. The nation's food suppliers and wholesalers have made many new connections with Food Banks to reduce their overages and meet the food insecurity demand as people continue to be laid off and are unable to find work.

In April, we received over 7,000 pounds of food from the **Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints**. A tractor trailer travelled across the country and the food was shared between multiple essential food agencies. FUMC received around 20% of the 35,000 pound shipment because of the number of families we are serving! We had a team of 10 volunteers with trucks to pick up the food at a local warehouse and bring the food to our pantry.

**St George's Episcopal Church** donated their reserves of food (several truckloads) they had in stock from “the Table” ministry plus the use of their dollies to endlessly move food around our building. St. Georges also uses our parking lot and storage to continue to distribute their Senior USDA boxes monthly. When the Seniors come by for their boxes, they also come to our pantry!



**Thompson Steven** (and his anonymous employer), have donated three truckloads of meat, baby food and diapers in since the end of May. Thompson first came to FUMC in 2005 with some other refugees from Liberia! FUMC helped to settle in Virginia back in 2005. The Rhodes, Mann's and Billingsley's, etc. helped a group of refugees from Liberia settle into this area, helped them to find jobs, learn to drive and get

settled in, having no more than a suitcase of belongings. God works in awesome ways and when his employer wanted to give back and support the community during Covid-19 Thompson opened up the channels! We are just one pantry he is helping, and it has been a blessing to reconnect with him.



## Financial donations

Many members of Fredericksburg United Methodist church have supported this ministry financially this year and especially when our world was rocked by Covid-19. We are so grateful and blessed as this has been critical to keeping us going when our community needs us even more!

In April we received a corporate donation from the **Allan Myers** construction company's office in Richmond. We have been using these monies for meat and dairy.

**The Presbyterian Church** donated monies collected for their food pantry which had to close during the pandemic. We are so blessed by this offering and their joyful volunteers.



We also applied and received a \$7,000 Covid-19 Relief grant from **The Community Foundation**. The Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that manages and distributes charitable giving in the Rappahannock River Region. This grant is being used for a large refrigerator and a supply of milk, dairy



and/or eggs until the end of the year. We caused a bit of commotion bringing that beast in the Hanover street doors on it's side, thanks to five masked muscle men! We now get 64 gallons of milk delivered weekly!

## Going forward

We continue to persevere, we continue to put safety first and we continue to serve families and children with really good food to include, frozen meat, milk, cheese, eggs and canned items. The average family, of 1 to 4 members, receives over 55 pounds of food, including the USDA program food. We are thankful for all the support and we will continue to improve, and we will continue to need volunteers.

Blessings to you and your family – Trish Vaughan

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me," - Matt 25:35*

