



141 East Lancaster Ave.  
Downingtown, PA 19335

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Email: info@Lordspantrypa.org  
Website: www.lordspantryofdowningtown.org

Serving the emergency food needs of  
Downingtown, Exton and Lionville residents.

NONPROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WEST CHESTER, PA  
PERMIT, NO. 354

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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### ADOPT A CHILD OR FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

**Our Christmas program is modified this year for the safety of our clients and volunteers.**

**We will only be able to accept monetary donations due to the logistics of this Program.**

**All qualifying families will receive one Gift Card per Child to do their own Christmas shopping. We know many donors may be disappointed, as they love to shop and wrap.**

**If you would like to participate this year, please designate your monetary donation for "Christmas" and send to :**

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



**To donate online visit our website at : [lordspantryofdowningtown.org](http://lordspantryofdowningtown.org).**

**On "Donation Summary Page" designate "Christmas" in the message box.**

Fall 2020

On a Wing  
And a Prayer



Volume 16, Issue 2

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## From Jan's Desk

The past few months have been so challenging for everyone. It makes you realize how much of our daily life we take for granted. Since the Lord's Pantry is 100% volunteer and 95% of the volunteers fall into the "at risk" category for Covid-19, it was not an easy decision to keep open. All of our volunteers were notified that we would remain open with modifications to our operations and assured them that we fully understood anyone's decision not to continue. It was only through the resilience of our dedicated skeleton crew and the compassion and generosity of the community that we have been able to continue.

In the beginning, when it was nearly impossible to place our usual "bulk" orders with local grocery stores, many of the local businesses and restaurants came to our aid with their contacts and donations. Many of our donors donated their stimulus checks or greatly increased their usual donations. It was so gratifying to see how our community pulled together to lend a hand to our less fortunate neighbors. At one point, we had to stop accepting food donations because we were filled to capacity – that has never happened even during the holiday season. Everyone wanted to help and many came up with creative ideas including sewing and selling masks; donating restaurant meals to our clients; food drives held in organizations, companies and neighborhoods, monetary collections, collecting school supplies; diaper drives and a shredding event just to name a few. The most touching moment for me was when I received a call from a past client who insisted on gratefully giving back by donating almost \$1,000 worth of meat through his supplier.

Regretfully we were forced to cancel our Sneaker Distribution this year due to the logistics of the distribution. Our families were very disappointed but understood. Our Thanksgiving Distribution will be changed to a drive-thru distribution for the safety of our volunteers and clients. Our Adopt-A-Child for Christmas Program will also have to be modified, as we will ONLY be able to accept **monetary donations** due to the logistics of this Program. All qualifying families will receive one Gift Card per child to do their own Christmas shopping. We know many donors will be disappointed, as they love to shop and wrap – it is just not possible this year.

All of us at the Pantry want to wish you and your families a very **HEALTHY** and **SAFE** holiday season.

Jan Leaf  
Executive Director

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"No One Should Suffer From Hunger"

**A Grateful Thank You  
to the Lord's Pantry  
"Essential Volunteers"  
for their endless time  
and dedication to  
those less fortunate  
in the community.**



**Benefits Enrollment Assistance Program Turns 10**

On April 6, 2010 Pantry volunteer Bill Seybold met with a client named Robin to complete a PA Tax and Rent Rebate application, thus kicking off our Benefits Enrollment Assistance Program (BEAP).

Over the next ten years, BEAP volunteers have assisted hundreds of clients to apply for federal, state and local programs available to them and to find referrals for other services to meet their food, housing and medical needs. Seniors are counseled on getting the most from their Medicare coverage. Property tax appeals are offered to our mobile home owners. Used furniture and household items are provided to families in need. Thousands of dollars in rebates and savings have been secured for our clients.

Since March of this year, BEAP has provided information for Covid-related programs, including expanded food stamp benefits, the stimulus payments, mortgage and rental assistance, the eviction moratorium, and programs for school meals, emergency cash, and mental health support. The BEAP program is essential for the well-being of so many of our clients.

Many thanks to all of our **BEAP** volunteers over the past ten years:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Diane Amicone     | Julie Blank  |
| Randy Blough      | Rob Chapman  |
| Charlie Georthe   | Janet Hemley |
| Elaine Coia Neary | Bill Seybold |
| Kevin Zeeger      |              |

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 over 150 school backpacks and supplies for **Back-to-School**.

Messiah Lutheran Church for their donation of fresh produce and their members 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.**

**BOARD CORNER**

COVID-19 is clearly the story of the century and affecting the lives of everyone, some tragically. We all have had to change how we go about our daily lives. The impact on our economy, ability to earn a living or attend school and in so many other ways has been dramatically impacted.

On the brighter side, the response of the community to meeting the needs of their neighbors has been outstanding. As a result of many churches, civic organizations and others getting involved helping those in need, the number of clients we served was significantly reduced the first several weeks of the shutdown. During this period, we received donations from people who had never contributed to the Pantry. Some people donated all or part of their stimulus checks. Currently, we have returned to the level of activity that existed pre-COVID-19.

As Jan mentioned, we have had to modify our operating procedures to protect our volunteers and our clients. We remain committed to serving those in need and appreciate your continuing support!

**Al Brady, Board President**

**THANKS TO OUR HOMETOWN HEROES IN SUPPORTING THE LORD’S PANTRY**

- |                               |                                       |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Acme-Chester Springs          | Giant-Exton                           |
| Anthony’s Cucina Fresca       | Lione’s Pizza                         |
| Bryant Brothers Smokehouse    | Ludwigs Village Market                |
| Coffee Cup Restaurant         | Schorn Construction                   |
| Colonial Village Meat Market  | Shop Rite                             |
| Crops Marketplace             | Target—Eagleview                      |
| Downingtown Gift Card Bundles | The Farmhouse Coffee and Espresso Bar |
| Estrella Tacos y Mas          | Work2gether                           |