

HOPEWELL FOOD PANTRY

“Neighbors Feeding Neighbors”

ANNUAL REPORT for FISCAL YEAR 2018 - ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

The Hopewell Food Pantry (HFP) was organized by a group of local churches in June 1983, to provide emergency food to individuals and families who were in TEMPORARY crisis, and primarily waiting for their Food Stamps to begin. Over the past 30 years our mission has expanded to fight hunger in the City of Hopewell by serving all Hopewell families in need of food. We hope, along with those who partner with us, to positively impact families, by providing food security for our residents. The Hopewell Food Pantry is a 501(c) (3) (not for profit) organization. Donations are tax deductible.

The HFP is a highly respected organization and has the on-going support from a large number of the local churches, organizations, businesses, individuals, and the City of Hopewell. Other financial support includes the Cameron Foundation, the John Randolph Foundation (JRF), Altria Foundation, Community Development Building Grant (CDBG), Capital Area Partners Uplifting People (CAPUP), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Feed More (aka Central Virginia Food Bank) of Richmond, and the United Way of Hopewell. All this local support is the reason we have been able to fully complete our mission year after year. With this sense of community and partnership, we hope to emulate our motto, "Neighbors Feeding Neighbors."

With an emphasis on seniors and the disabled, the pantry has created access to good, healthy food for all those in need. Again this year, we have not reduced the food quantity or quality of our distributions, nor have we turned away any eligible family because of a lack of food. Next year, we are expanding our services by allowing our regular clients six visits per year, up from the current 4.

The HFP has been in its new facility for 2 years. The new facility has been a blessing to the volunteers and clients, plus several new programs have been added that benefit our clients. The building is over 3,200 square feet, containing 3 large rooms: a client in-take room, a food distribution preparation and cold storage room, and a storage area for food held at room temperature, which doubles as cardboard recycle area. The food distribution room contains a walk-in refrigerator, and 16 household freezers of various sizes.

In FY 2018, the HFP provided a week or more supply of food to 4,555 family units, totaling 11,942 clients. The number of clients served was on par with the number of clients we served in the last six years, which were: 12,041, 11,088, 11,573, 11,175, 10,880 and 10,701 respectively. For the 11,942 clients served in FY 2018, a total of at least 250,000 meals were provided at an estimated value of over \$375,000.

Food products and funds continue to be donated by local churches, individuals, and various organizations. In FY 2018, twenty-one churches conducted 110 food drives. In addition, 28 organizations, including the Boy Scouts, and businesses, conducted 72 food drives, with 60 individuals bringing food our door at the HFP. The Hopewell Postal Workers conducted a city-wide food drive resulting in the collection of over 4,200 pounds of food. Further, food is regularly donated to the HFP by the local Food Lion, Save-A-Lot, Panera

Bread, Little Caesar's, Goya Foods warehouse, KFC, Wawa, and one Target store in Richmond. When available, Hunters for the Hungry has provided us with deer meat.

Total cash receipts of \$37,000, were donated from The Shepherd's Place, participating churches, individuals, and various organizations. Forty-one local churches, businesses and organizations donated funds to the HFP in FY 2018, in addition to 33 individuals. Allocated funds were received from the United Way of Hopewell, and FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Our budget for this fiscal year was \$130,074 compared to \$126,975 in FY 2017. Our total income from all sources this year was \$129,222. Six grants were received, all for General Operations, totaling \$92,430. Cameron Foundation gave us \$35,000, and John Randolph Foundation provided a \$40,000 grant and a \$750 holiday meal grant. FEMA's grant this year was \$2,180. The City of Hopewell's Community grant was \$7,000. The Community Development Building Grant (CDBG) provided \$4,500 grant. Capital Area Partners Uplifting People (CAPUP) grant was \$3,000. Another notable financial supporter was the United Way of Hopewell and several other United Way city locations. They provided \$7,358. The United Way of Hopewell additionally provided \$500 to purchase turkeys for our holiday meal. As part of The Shepherd's Place mission, we received \$6,000.

The cost of operating the HFP in FY 2018 was \$122,823, compared to a budget of \$130,074. Food purchases were \$69,400, compared to \$73,989 for last year, or 56.5% of our total costs. Occupancy expenses are now \$34,500, in part due to our new facility; and our three 1099 contract workers was \$14,500 or 11.8%. Two of our contract employees pick up food donations, including weekends, from the sources listed above, and purchase food from Feed More and other local stores. This is key to keeping our costs under control, which is enabling us to increase the number of visits allowed. Two other huge benefits for having contract help are flexibility and availability. The HFP is often contacted by truckers that are looking to find a place to donate food that could not be delivered, not "bad" food, but order errors or delivery issues; and our contract buyers are on-call for these pick-ups. We are the most flexible food pantry in the area for these truck companies. All distributions to clients are made by volunteers AND there are no paid staff positions.

Our program to provide a monthly food distribution to the elderly poor and permanently disabled continues to help those who meet those criteria. ("Regular" families received a food distribution four times per year in FY2018). An average of 218 elderly poor and permanently disabled individuals were helped each month in FY 2018, up 5%. 55% of our client visits are in this program. This is a demographic that really needs our support.

The number of homeless client visits was 1,065 compared to 809 last year. We know that most homeless persons have nowhere to store perishables or even food items. To make our food distribution work best for their needs, a homeless person can come once per week and receive a distribution with an emphasis on pop-top cans of meat and fruit. Interestingly, some of them volunteer on the days they pick up their food. Keep in mind this population is very inconsistent, so the exact number of individuals is not known.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) has now been ongoing for well over a year. This is a Federal program that provides a monthly 32-pound box of shelf stable food items, plus a two-pound block

of cheese to low income seniors over the age of 60. The HFP currently manages 100 distributions a month. The administration of this program is time consuming, in part because of the paperwork required by the Federal government. Also, as many as 30 “reminder” phone calls are needed each month.

Due to our continuing heavy client load, we are very diligent in ensuring client eligibility, so that abuse of our guidelines is minimized. Using a computer spreadsheet to monitor our client's visits has allowed us to keep better track of each client family and cut down on abuses. Each client/family must have a picture ID and proof of Hopewell residency. Next year, we shall purchase a new laptop, as our current computer is obsolete.

Our free book program, sponsored by Lisa Libraries of Kingston, New York, continues to be a blessing to many of our client’s children. The books are free to us, and all we do is pay for the shipping. One new book per visit, mostly for children and young adults, is available to each child in a family. A dedicated book shelf has been placed in our lobby.

For the adults that come to pick-up food, current newspapers are placed in the in-take area for them to read. This is likely the only time they have a chance to read a newspaper.

Our involvement with Meals-on-Wheels program began and ended this year. For one year, the HFP was the distribution point for all Hopewell Meals-on-Wheels clients. The prepared food was delivered to us from the Feed More MOW kitchen each weekday. The next morning their volunteers inspected and distributed the meals to the MOW drivers. There were two routes. The termination of this program had nothing to do with anything that our volunteers failed to do, and frankly all of them were very disappointed. Feed More opted to move the distribution point for the two Hopewell routes back to Colonial Heights, as they stated for cost reasons.

Policy and operating procedures are established by the local Board of Directors. A list of the members of the Board is available upon request.