

Local Food Bank – Twelve Baskets Food Pantry

We are happy to report that the Long Hill Township “Twelve Baskets” Food Pantry has successfully launched with First Presbyterian Church-Stirling (FPC), Meyersville Presbyterian Church (MPC), and All Saints Episcopal Church (ASEC) in Millington working together to open a physical food pantry for Long Hill area residents who are experiencing food insecurity. On Saturday, January 22nd, these efforts culminated in a very successful opening day of the Twelve Baskets Food Pantry, housed at ASEC. On that day, we provided food to 14 families/households, for a total of 44 people served -- 20 adults, 17 children, and 7 seniors. It is estimated that approximately 568 pounds of food was distributed on opening day!



Formal meetings between the three churches and interested community volunteers began the end of November 2021. ASEC was already a partner agency of the Community Food Bank of NJ (CFBNJ) which enabled them to get larger quantities of food for distribution through our local food pantry. The food obtained from the CFBNJ, as well as donations from the community and from our church, helped to stock the pantry.

A group of very active volunteers, including Rev. Aspinall, Doris Mertz of MPC, Kai Ihringer and Lynn Blakeslee from FPC, members of ASEC, numerous community volunteers, and the Long Hill Community Services Director, Shayne Daly, worked to help make the Food Pantry a reality. The group installed shelving and organized goods, created a flyer, distributed information throughout the community, picked up food from the CFBNJ in Hillside, and staffed the food pantry on opening day.

Going forward, the pantry will be open every first and third Saturday of the month.

Currently, it offers non-perishable foods, dental supplies, paper goods such as toilet paper and paper towels, and cleaning supplies. It is anticipated that the pantry will add a limited number of perishable items in the future by utilizing monetary donations given for that purpose. A valid driver's license or state ID card is the only documentation needed to "shop" at the food pantry.

If you would like to become part of the Twelve Baskets Food Pantry Committee, or otherwise volunteer, please contact Lynn Blakeslee, Kai Ihringer, or Rev. Aspinall. For a list of items needed for the food pantry, please see our website or the printed flyers available in Pollard Hall. All food collected by our church will now be brought to ASEC to be distributed at the Twelve Baskets Food Pantry. To make a monetary contribution, please make your check payable to FPC, note that it is for the “Food Pantry,” and our church will forward your donation to the Twelve Baskets Food Pantry account.

For more info: <http://www.all saints millington.org/outreach.html>