

AUGUST 2019 | VOL. 5

# THE DINNER BELL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



## FEED ST. MARY'S

### OUR MISSION:

*TO ALLEVIATE FOOD INSECURITY THROUGHOUT ST. MARY'S COUNTY*

### OUR VISION:

*A ST. MARY'S COUNTY FREE FROM HUNGER*

### WHAT'S INSIDE:

*WELCOME TO THE  
LEONARDTOWN ROTARY  
CLUB!*

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*THANK YOU TO OUR  
PARTNERS!*

## Welcome to the Leonardtwn Rotary Club!

Feed St. Mary's humbly welcomes the Leonardtown Rotary club to the FSM cause! This month members of the Leonardtown Rotary attended a Marketing and Development committee meeting to pledge their support. We are excited to see what this burgeoning partnership brings!

# Small Beginnings to Great Partnerships

*By Linda Lymas*

After two years of planning for a food bank in St. Mary's, FSM was afforded an opportunity for a partnership with U-Haul, resulting in a 3000 sq. ft space for a food warehouse. The Feed St. Mary's team has responded to another invitation for a partnership with the Maryland Food Bank, a state non-profit, located in Baltimore, MD. On July 26, 2019, a nine-member team from the FSM organization traveled to Baltimore to meet with MFB executives. The nine FSM participants included Julie Randall, John Roberts, George Hurlburt, Wayne Millen, Russell Koegler, Roy Wetzel, Rich Slavik, Walt Gardiner, and Linda Lymas. Upon arrival at the MFB headquarters, The FSM team was greeted by Yekatit Bezooayehu, director of Regional Programs, Southern Maryland Region, Meg Kimmel, Executive Vice-President for Marketing, Michelle Nowak, Partner Programs and TEFAP, and Carman De Vecho, CEO Maryland Food Bank. The meeting began with a brief update regarding FSM's progress. The MDFB group discussed warehouse inspection requirements and other food-related trainings. Health and fire inspections are tentatively scheduled to take place at the FSM warehouse in September. During the meeting, CEO Carman DeVecho shared that his staff was willing to provide support to help facilitate the opening of FSM by the target date of October 1, 2019. The MFB team is scheduled to visit the warehouse for a final inspection during the fourth week of September. The FSM organization looks forward to signing the Memorandum of Understanding shortly after the final inspection. Maryland Food Bank will provide the food for FSM and assist with making adequate nutrition available to food-insecure residents in St. Mary's. A new partnership is on the horizon!



# Power to "Stak"

By Walt Gardiner

Feed St. Mary's now has the power to "Stak," now that we have acquired a Presto 2,200 lb capacity Power Stak from our friends and advisors at **End Hunger** in Calvert County at a very generous price. **Thank you, End Hunger!** John Roberts of FSM Steering Committee rented a truck and a trailer from our friends and partners at U-HAUL on Thursday, August 22nd, and drove to End Hunger with Walt Gardiner to pick up our new acquisition. They were met by End Hunger Warehouse Manager, Ray Brungard, who gave them a lesson in power-stacking, and assisted them in loading the Power Stak onto their trailer. John safely navigated FSM's first piece of equipment back across the Thomas Johnson Bridge to its new home at our warehouse at the U-HAUL location just off Great Mills Road in Lexington Park. FSM is now ready to stack, but more importantly to distribute the much needed quality food to our partners at the food pantries and soup kitchens, present and future, throughout St. Mary's County.



## Warehouse Volunteer Needed

As Feed St. Mary's nears our grand opening date, we are in **urgent** need a warehouse volunteer to help with the day-to-day operations of the Feed St. Mary's food bank. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please email Julie Randall at [jbrandall31055@gmail.com](mailto:jbrandall31055@gmail.com) or reach out to us via our website, [feedstmarys.com](http://feedstmarys.com).



## Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 19: 53rd Annual Oyster Festival

- Feed St. Mary's will be tabling at this year's Oyster Festival with t-shirts and other marketing materials! Stop by and say hi!

Grand Opening Event: More details to follow!

## Thank You To Our Partners!



**END HUNGER**  
IN CALVERT COUNTY

Nothing Feed St. Mary's has been able to accomplish thus far would be possible without the support of our wonderful friends and partners at U-HAUL, the Rotary Clubs of St. Mary's County, Dominion Energy, and End Hunger in Calvert County. We offer our sincerest thanks to these organizations and hope to continue these partnerships long into the future.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
FEED ST. MARY'S!**