

DECEMBER 2019 | VOL. 8

THE DINNER BELL

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF



OUR MISSION:

TO ALLEVIATE FOOD INSECURITY THROUGHOUT ST. MARY'S COUNTY

OUR VISION:

A ST. MARY'S COUNTY FREE FROM HUNGER

Dozens of Feed St. Mary's partners and community members were on hand on Friday, December 13 for the Feed St. Mary's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. FSM's Linda Lymas took care of the honors as the Food Bank moved another step closer to opening its doors and realizing the vision of a community free from hunger.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

THE BEGINNING OF BUILDING BIG PARTNERSHIPS

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM FSM



The Beginning Of Building Big Partnerships

On November 14 and 15, the Feed St. Mary's (FSM) team welcomed Yekatit Bezooyehu and Jennifer Small from the Maryland Food Bank (MFB) Regional staff to St. Mary's County. The purpose of this visit was to conduct the initial two-day partnership orientation.

On the first day of orientation, the MFB representatives conducted an inspection of the new Feed St. Mary's location. Yekatit and Jennifer were very impressed with their first glimpse of the warehouse and FSM's planned model for receiving and distributing food to local pantries and soup kitchens.

After completing the location inspection, the MFB team traveled to two pantries: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry at Good Samaritan Lutheran Church and the Church of Ascension Food Pantry. Pantry leaders such as Rich Slavik at Good Samaritan, Diane Vanderwest and Phyllis Greer at Church of Ascension have graciously agreed to assist with our upcoming food bank opening including assessing the logistics for becoming fully operational. Jennifer and Yekatit were



appreciative that the pantry leaders took the time to conduct the tour and answer questions during the inspection. Thanks to Rich, Diane, and Phyllis for serving as hosts, but also being a part of the Feed St. Mary's team as we look forward to adding new pantries and soup kitchens. This is a classic example of bringing life to our mission of alleviating food insecurity in St. Mary's County.

The second day of orientation was highlighted by the FSM team participating in a two-hour training session at the University of Southern Maryland in Southern Maryland on topics such as the regional approach to food distribution, a best practices model, the benefits of partnership, and a review of shared expectations. The meeting concluded with participants addressing pertinent questions and developing recommended action steps to facilitate the completion of any pending items.

The two-day orientation was a time for learning, but it will also be remembered as another giant step in the journey of moving forward in the formation of significant partnerships between the local and State organizations. Through teamwork like this, *"Together, we can end hunger in St. Mary's!"*



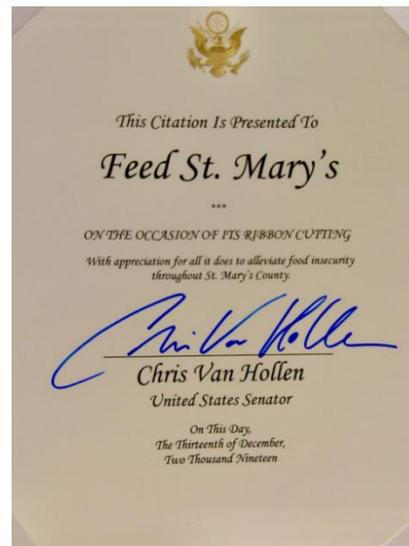
Linda Lymas addresses the community members and partners who gathered for the FSM's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – December 13, 2019

Official Acknowledgments – *United States Senator Chris Van Hollen offered his congratulations for the efforts being made by FSM to alleviate food insecurity in St. Mary's County by way of a citation read during the Ribbon Cutting Celebration. St. Mary's County Commissioners Mike Hewitt and Eric Colvin as well as Delegate Brian Crosby were present at the Ribbon Cutting.*

How You Can Help Feed St. Mary's

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Julie Randall at: juliebrandall55@gmail.com.

If you are interested in donating, email us at: feedstmarys@gmail.com or mail your tax deductible donations to: Feed St. Mary's, P.O. Box 212, Lexington Park, MD 20653.



The Feed St. Mary's family would like to thank FSM Founder Lynda Lymas, Volunteer Executive Director Joyce Danaher, Warehouse Manager Wayne Millen and the entire Feed St. Mary's Board of Directors for the leadership they provided in 2019. We look forward to a prosperous 2020!

Feed St. Mary's Greatly Appreciates its Operational Sponsors

Generous Citizens of Southern Maryland

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TOGETHER, WE WILL FEED ST. MARY'S

Feed St. Mary's Greatly Appreciates its Capital Investors

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