

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



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- *FSM IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS*
- *FIRST DROP PHOTOS*
- *FSM BENEFIT AND FUNDRAISER – SUCCESS!*
- *HUB AND SPOKE – HOW FSM WORKS*

In spite of limitations imposed by the COVID-19 virus, Feed St. Mary's received its initial shipment from the Maryland Food Bank. Orders placed by the two pilot food pantries, Church of Ascension Food Pantry and the Good Samaritan Bread of Life Food Pantry were on board as was extra food that could be distributed by St. Mary's County food pantries and soup kitchens.

FEED ST. MARY'S IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

The Feed St. Mary's Food Bank was established to provide a reliable and sustainable source of food for the soup kitchens and food pantries within St. Mary's County. Feed St. Mary's officially started conducting business in March 2020. On March 20, Feed St. Mary's received its first delivery of food from its partner, the Maryland Food Bank. All of the food delivered to Feed St. Mary's is destined to support organizations on the front-lines of relieving food insecurity in St. Mary's County. A planned celebration signaling the initial delivery of food was postponed to support social distancing caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the developing food crisis we are now facing, the fully equipped food bank has opened just in time.



Similar to established food banks in neighboring counties, Feed St. Mary's is unique to St. Mary's County because it provides support to the food pantries and soup kitchens rather than directly to individuals. The first two pantry partners from St. Mary's County to join the Maryland Food Bank and Feed St. Mary's are the Church of Ascension Food Pantry and the Good Samaritan Bread of Life Food Pantry. The orders placed directly with the Maryland Food Bank comprised the first delivery to the Feed St. Mary's Food Bank. Upon receipt of pallets of healthy food, Feed St. Mary's promptly split the orders for further distribution. In a collaborative effort to provide immediate relief to the escalating food crisis, the Maryland Food Bank added additional food to help jump-start food distribution in St. Mary's County. The donated food is made available to pantries and soup kitchens in need of extra food. All of this is being done locally with no added overhead.



Feed St. Mary's occupies a 3,000 square foot storefront at 46041 Signature Lane, Great Mills, Maryland (the old McKay's Store location). The warehouse is fully outfitted with all necessary pallet handling and storage equipment. It contains a large walk-in cooler and refrigeration unit.

While off to a solid beginning, the Feed St. Mary's team led by Warehouse Manager Wayne Millen and Food Bank Manager Joyce Danaher is moving quickly to assist other pantries and soup kitchens interested in joining the partnership. The team will assist all potential partners with the application process. Organizations interested in starting a pantry are also encouraged to contact Feed St. Mary's for assistance. Feed St. Mary's is poised to grow quickly.

Organizations that provide food directly to people in need or anyone interested in monetarily supporting the partnership should contact Feed St. Mary's directly via feedstmarys@feedstmarys.org or by calling **240-237-8297**. Financial contributions may be made online to feedstmarys.org or mailed to **P.O. Box 212, Lexington Park, MD 20653**. Checks may be made out to the Lexington Park Rotary Foundation with an annotation for Feed St. Mary's.

While the current crisis has altered the way we originally envisioned doing business, we are committed to providing services to our current partners and look forward to assisting to those on the frontlines of feeding the hungry. Together we will Feed St. Mary's!



FEED ST. MARY'S FOOD BANK BENEFIT:

Feed St. Mary's was the recipient of a lot of publicity and a financial boost when the local community joined together to help raise money and awareness for the St. Mary's County's first food bank. The event, held at Taphouse 1637 on March 7, 2020, was organized by longtime supporter Walt Gardiner. The event included dinner, music by One Trick Pony and a variety of fundraising activities such as a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing. The event brought together about 140 community supporters and raised over \$6,000.00 for Feed St. Mary's. Thanks to Walt and everyone who worked so hard to blend fun and fundraising together to help Feed St. Mary's!



THE UNIQUENESS OF FEED ST. MARY'S – HUB AND SPOKE MODEL:

One of the challenges of being the “new kid in town” is explaining how Feed St. Mary's fits into the community. Feed St. Mary's is a food bank, not a new food pantry. Feed St. Mary's is designed to provide support to the food pantries and soup kitchens that exist in St. Mary's County. Our job is not to order food or distribute it directly to consumers, we offer a link between the local providers and Maryland Food Bank. In doing so, Feed St. Mary's provides a convenient and cost effective way for local entities to receive healthy food. Feed St. Mary's operates using the “hub and spoke” method that allows local pantries and soup kitchens to order directly from Maryland Food Bank from the items they have in stock. Once the orders have been placed, a single truck delivers all of the orders to the Feed St. Mary's warehouse where the food can be picked up by the local pantries and distributed to the people they serve. While Feed St. Mary's is dedicated to provide ancillary services to other organizations interested in easing food insecurity in our community, our main purpose is to provide support the local organizations who directly serve the community.

At Feed St. Mary's, we talk a lot about partnerships. We view ourselves as part of larger team that is dedicated to ending hunger in St. Mary's County. We are proud of the role we play in this model and continue to be supportive of our all of those who join together to Feed St. Mary's!

Are you interested in finding a Food Pantry in St. Mary's County? Check out the up-to-date listing on our website: <https://feedstmarys.org/services/>

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
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