

Together... let's help OUR neighbors get the food they need to THRIVE!





2024 End of Year Appeal

THE





Dear Friend.

The HOPE Center of Maryland is a small food distribution ministry that continues to grow! So far this year, The HOPE Center has collected and distributed more than 200,000 pounds of food and other essential items for struggling families, vulnerable seniors and low-income students in Harford County, Maryland. As we enter this season of generosity and love, we reach out to ask you to help us meet the needs of our neighbors who are hungry.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, more than 5,000 children aged 5 to 17 live in poverty in Harford County, the majority of whom are students in the Harford County Public Schools. While they qualify for free school breakfast/lunch on school days, many of them often go hungry on the weekends.

Last year, The HOPE Center of Maryland began its "Beyond Blessings" program to provide weekend meal bags to feed at-risk students on the weekends when school meals aren't available. We provided weekend meal bags to 130 needy



students at 3 high-poverty schools. This year, we've been called to do even more. We began distributing weekend meal bags in October for 335 low-income students at 9 schools! Those schools include Aberdeen Middle, Bakerfield Elementary, Deerfield Elementary, Edgewood Middle & High, Harford Academy, Joppatowne Elementary and High and Riverside Elementary.

We were pleased that our first year of "Beyond Blessings" was successful in addressing food insecurity for 130 students, but the need is much greater! Nearly one of every three households in Harford County is struggling to make ends meet. Some of the students served by our "Beyond Blessings" weekend meal bags may even be your child's favorite school friends!

With your support, The HOPE Center can impact our community in a lasting way. Your donation will ensure that more children will have the opportunity to thrive. Together we can make a difference in Harford County.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, peace and joy this holiday season,



We hope you'll take a moment to read our End of Year Appeal on all the amazing things The HOPE Center of Maryland has accomplished this past year. We couldn't have done it without your continual help and support.

Please visit our <u>website</u> to learn more about how you can make a lasting impact in our local schools and how you can continue to help us carry out our vital mission this holiday season. Your gift goes a long way $\cite{}$



We need your support!



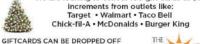
The HOPE Center will be hosting a pizza party for 50 clients of Keypoint's Adult Day Program.

We are seeking gift card donations to hand out at the party.

We are looking to collect 100 gift cards at \$15

Voted "Best in Harford County" Burgers. Handhelds. Beer.





TO THE HOPE CENTER 2845 CHURCHVILLE RD. CHURCHVILLE, MD 21028

CONTACT ROBERT MEZA 443.787.9290 ROBERT@THEHOPECENTEROFMD.COM





111 Thomas Street, Bel Air Tuesday, December 10th Hours - 10am to 9pm

The drop-off deadline for Pizza Party donations is December 17th. We appreciate your help in collecting gift cards for the adults in Keypoint's Day Program.

We invite you to come support The HOPE Center on **December 10th** at Vagabond! Please mention at the cash register that you are supporting The HOPE Center Fundraiser.



We appreciate our financial and in-kind donors. Your contribution makes a difference in the lives of those we serve - thank you for your generosity and kindness.









We are excited to annoounce our Beyong Blessing Program is growing! We have added 6 new schools to our weekly rotation. For the 2024/2025 school year we will provide these schools with a total of 335 bags per week for a total of 84,420 meals.





Aberdeen Middle Bakerfield E.S. Deerfield E.S. Edgewood Middle Edgewood H.S. Harford Academy Joppatowne E.S. Joppatowne H.S. Riverside E.S.







For more information on Beyond Blessings, please contact Robert at robert@thehopecenterofmd.com or 443.787.9290.



Our volunteers allow the HOPE Center to fulfill its mission and serve our community every day. Thank you for your time and the hard work that you give.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Dates to remember – If you are available to help, please contact Robert at robert@thehopecenterofmd.com prior to the event date.

- Saturday, December 7th Redner's Bel Air Food Drive
- Wednesday, December 10th Vagabond Fundraiser (all day), Bel Air
- Saturday, December 28th The Sharing Table, a community feeding event
- Wednesday, January 8th Capriotti's Fundraiser, Bel Air
- Tuesday, January 21st Wayback Burgers Fundraiser, Bel Air 4-8 pm
- Tuesday, February 25th Pat's Pizzeria Fundraiser, Bel Air 4-9 pm



Monthly Wishlist

Since February 2020, The HOPE Center of Maryland has distributed **973,235** pounds of food and non-food necessities to individuals in Harford County. If you'd like to help, you may drop off donations at our administrative office at 2843 Churchville Road, Churchville, MD, or mail your gift card to this address.



HANDS for HOPE: Senior Food Distribution Services

As the cost of basic necessities continues to rise, individuals and families in Harford County are struggling to keep up. Through HANDS for HOPE, The HOPE Center provides supplemental food items to residents of several senior housing facilities, including Park View Bel Air, Aberdeen Courts, and Park View Box Hill. In addition, other foods are donated during the month such as fresh produce (when in season), as well as Wawa sandwiches and pastries.

If you are interested in helping our seniors, please contact Robert at robert@thehopecenterofmd.com or 443.787.9290.



We Love Our Volunteers!

Volunteers are the heartbeat of The HOPE Center of Maryland. They collect, sort, pack, and distribute food donations to our neighbors who are facing a lack of food in their homes. And, we have opportunities for everyone – individuals, families, community organizations, churches, and corporate groups.

Please visit our website at www.thehopecenterofmd.com for information on volunteering or to host a food drive or email Robert at robert@thehopecenterofmd.com.



Girl Scouts from Troop #1021 and #1199 from Perry Hall packed 240 weekend meal bags this month for students attending Harford County Public Schools. We're so grateful!

The Hope Center is always needing individuals or teams to come by to assemble our weekend meal bags for at-risk students enrolled at Harford County schools. For

information, please contact Robert at robert@thehopecenterofmd.com











Donate Here!



Please follow us on Facebook and share -We're close to our goal of 1000 followers!

2843 Churchville Road, Churchville, MD 21028, USA (443) 787-9290

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