



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

# BEACON OF HOPE

CARING FOR OTHERS... PROVIDING HOPE.



**PEOPLE MATTER TO GOD.**



*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!*



We send our warmest thoughts and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year filled with Peace, Joy, and Love.

***2024 End of Year Appeal***





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,

*Robert*  
Robert Meza  
Executive Director



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 [website](#) 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 ❤️

## 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.*



Mention the HOPE Center of Maryland when you order at Vagabond's (excludes Doordash) and 20% of your check will be donated to support the work of the center.

<https://vagabondsandwichcompany.com>



increments from outlets like:  
 Target • Walmart • Taco Bell  
 Chick-fil-A • McDonalds • Burger King

GIFTCARDS CAN BE DROPPED OFF  
 TO THE HOPE CENTER  
 2845 CHURCHVILLE RD.  
 CHURCHVILLE, MD 21028

CONTACT ROBERT MEZA  
 443.787.9290  
 ROBERT@THEHOPECENTEROFMD.COM




<http://vagabondsandwichcompany.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 announce our Beyond 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.



## Making a Difference

Childhood hunger is a reality in Harford County, Maryland. Weekend meal programs help fill the hunger gap that many school children experience when they are not in school.

Through our Beyond Blessings program, The HOPE Center of Maryland provides at-risk students attending Harford County Public Schools with meal bags of kid-friendly, nutritious food to sustain them on the weekends during the school year.



1 Bag Cost - \$12  
1 Month (4 Bags) Cost - \$48  
3 Months (12 Bags) Cost - \$144  
1 School Year (44 Bags) Cost - \$528

Your help is needed.  
Together, let's make an impact  
in our schools!



We are reaching out to the community for  
bag sponsorships for The HOPE Center of Maryland.

A sample of food items that are in our weekend meal bags:

- Fruit, Jell O & pudding cups
- Chicken salad cracker kits
- Mini cereal boxes with milk
- Capri Juice pouches or similar
- Granola bars
- Microwavable Mac & Cheese



For more information on Beyond Blessings, please contact Robert at  
[robert@thehopecenterofmd.com](mailto:robert@thehopecenterofmd.com) or 443.787.9290.

*A Heartfelt Thank You*  
**TO ALL OF OUR  
AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!**

We couldn't do it without you!

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](mailto: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

## DECEMBER WISH LIST

### WAYS TO GIVE:

- You may order at Walmart or any other retailer.

**Virtual Food Market:** See Website at [www.thehopecenterofmd.com](http://www.thehopecenterofmd.com)

Contact us to make drop off/pick up arrangements or if you have any questions.

• **Dropoff:** 2845 Churchville Road  
Churchville, MD 21028  
(Tuesday - Friday 11AM to 3PM)

• **Email:** [robert@thehopecenterofmd.com](mailto:robert@thehopecenterofmd.com)

• **Phone:** 443.787.9290

### NEEDS THIS MONTH:

Fruit Cups

Pasta Sauce

Pudding Cups

Chevy Granola Bars

Paper Towels - 6 Roll Packs



Caring for others, providing hope... Caring for others, providing hope... Caring for others, providing hope... Caring for others, providing hope... Caring for others, Providing food... Caring for others.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.thehopecenterofmd.com) for information on volunteering or to host a food drive or email Robert at [robert@thehopecenterofmd.com](mailto:robert@thehopecenterofmd.com).*

# **IN THE COMMUNITY!**

— CARING FOR OTHERS, PROVIDING HOPE —

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



weekend meal bags for at-risk students enrolled at Harford County schools. For information, please contact Robert at [robert@thehopecenterofmd.com](mailto:robert@thehopecenterofmd.com)



[Donate Here!](#)



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We're close to our goal of 1000 followers!**

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

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