

NEWS RELEASE

Event with Photo Opportunity

Scouts Work to Help Feed the Hungry Local Church to be One Beneficiary

Scouts from the National Capital Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, will join forces again in November to create one of the largest food collections in the DC metro area. This food drive will help stock the shelves at food pantries across their area. "Food collected will stay in communities and help neighbors in need like the food pantry of Community of Faith United Methodist Church in Franklin Farm", according to Rory Maynard, Scout liaison for the church.

Scouting for Food (SFF) is a food solicitation and collection campaign run by the Boy Scouts of America every year since 1988. SFF is considered the largest food solicitation and collection campaign in the Washington metropolitan area. Community of Faith United Methodist Church in Franklin Farm, Herndon, Virginia, is again one of the key collection and distribution centers.

The weekends of November 5 and 12 Scouts will be "Scouting for Food" to help the needy. Maynard says they will be going door-to-door in neighborhoods November 5 and 6 distributing bags to households and encouraging people to fill those bags with canned goods and other non-perishable food items. The following weekend, November 12 and 13, the food-filled bags will be collected by Scouts and taken to collection centers, like Community of Faith, where the food will be distributed through food pantries and other means in the coming months.

Dr. Rob Vaughn, pastor of Community of Faith (COF), laments, "Although Fairfax County is considered among the most prosperous in the nation, there are still many who will go hungry without the food we distribute each week." Vaughn is delighted his church will be a collection center for part of western Fairfax County again this year.

According to Vaughn, the Scouting for Food collection drive is vital to the ability of his church to feed weekly as many as 80 families. In addition, during Thanksgiving week over 130 families were served! "Last year", he said, "the Scouts brought food to the church and joined other volunteers who sorted and packed the food into boxes and stored them for distribution." Vaughn proudly

reports, "I've estimated over 11,000 food items were donated, filling 300 boxes for the food pantry."

"The large stock of non-perishable food collected by Scouting", Vaughn added, "goes a long way to meeting food requirements for Thanksgiving and Christmas and well into next year."

This year, Vaughn says he is excited his congregation has been joined by members from the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany to weekly serve those in need. Scott Meyer, senior warden of the church, says they are thankful through the generosity of the community and others the food pantry is available for all those who need it. Currently worshipping at Oak Hill Elementary School, the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany congregation is helping through financial support as well as providing volunteers for the pantry. According to Meyer, a guest at the pantry told him she thanks God the food pantry at Community of Faith is here.

In addition to "Scouting for Food", Community of Faith receives food donations from local providers including Giant, Bloom, Panera, Bob Evans, Starbucks, KFC, Chipotle, Cheesecake Factory and Famous Dave's.

For additional information, contact:

Dr. Rob Vaughn, 703-620-1977 or drrobvaughn@cox.net

Photo opportunity:

Food deliveries begin Saturday, November 12, at the church at 9:00 a.m. and continues till around 2:00 p.m. Sunday, November 13, is also a time that some packs drop off food from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

About Community of Faith United Methodist Church's Food Pantry:

Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road at the intersection with Fairfax County Parkway (behind the day care centers), has been providing food for over ten years to Fairfax County residents and others in need. What started out as a small, trial effort to assist, has now grown into a significant program. COF provides food for hundreds of people (60 to 80 families) each week. The effort includes local providers such as Giant, Bloom, Panera, Bob Evans, Chipotle, KFC, Cheesecake Factory, Famous Dave's, Starbucks and others who donate food which is collected and distributed weekly by volunteers.