

April - June 2016



# Catonsville Emergency Assistance

25 Bloomsbury Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228 410-747-help (4357) • [www.catonsvillehelp.org](http://www.catonsvillehelp.org)

Open Monday –Thursday 9am - 1pm



Megan Murduck,  
Executive Director

## Extended Hours to Drop Your Donations

### Narcissus Salon Now Accepting Food Donations for CEA

For your convenience, if you're dropping off a bag or two of food for CEA, you can now bring the donation to Narcissus Salon. The address is 28 Bloomsbury Ave., Catonsville (right across the street from CEA) during their business hours.

Their hours are: Monday 12 -8 pm, Tuesday – Thursday 10 am to 8 pm, Friday 10 am to 6 pm, and Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. The phone number is 410-788-0119.

Space is limited so please keep individual donations to one or two bags of dry and canned goods. Thanks Narcissus!

## Springtime Signifies Hope

*From the Executive Director*

Spring reminds us that change is possible. No matter how much snow came down over the winter, the weather will always turn warm again in the spring.

Thanks to your generous support, we are able to help those in Catonsville through each of their personal "winters" so that they have the opportunity to see the "spring" on the other side.

Catonsville Emergency Assistance can only fill the gap in people's times of need with your help, both through financial donations and volunteer support. Please consider contributing time or money, so that we can continue serving our Catonsville neighbors.

For those of you who are regular donors and volunteers, thank you for helping us bring families and individuals through their personal "winters" and into the "spring"!



The Catonsville Chamber of Commerce's Frederick Road Fridays free summer concerts will start on June 10th. And on June 24th, CEA will benefit from the proceeds of the beer and wine sales.

The popular concerts are held in the parking lot at 15 Mellor Avenue from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. In addition, we'll be holding a food drive and encouraging everyone attending to bring a can or box of non-perishable food.

The band that night is the very popular Appaloosa. So plan to attend – you'll have fun and help a great cause.

If you'd like to lend a hand, CEA's responsibility, in addition to staffing the beer and wine tables (21 and older), is to help set up and take down the tables, canopies, and trash receptacles for the event, and to assist with food donations.

To volunteer, call 410-747-4357 or send an email to [volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org](mailto:volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org) with Frederick Road Friday in the subject line. See you there.

## The CEA Mission

Catonsville Emergency Assistance serves greater Catonsville residents with emergency food, eviction prevention, and utility turn-off intervention.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**"Plen-Tea" for a Good Cause**

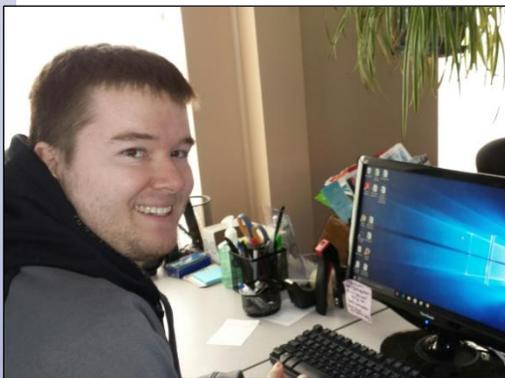
**Sold Out! Sold out!**

Yes, our first "Plen-Tea" to benefit Catonsville Emergency Assistance on Sunday, April 24, is sold out. The \$25 tickets went surprisingly quickly.

Since this event has proven so popular, please be assured that we plan to hold another in the near future. The tea, to be held at Christian Temple, is one of a number of fundraisers CEA is holding this year.

Please join us at our yard sale on May 7, and the Frederick Road Friday concert on June 24 (articles about both are in this newsletter).

**Presbytery Grant Gives CEA Computers & Software**



*Volunteer network engineer, Kevin Carr, with our upgraded computer.*

With many thanks to a grant of over \$1,000 from the Presbytery of Baltimore West Side Story Ministry Group, and a Microsoft Software Donation, CEA was able to purchase and install two brand new computers and update a fairly new computer with the latest Windows and Office software and a back-up data storage unit.

The older computers are being refurbished and will be re-purposed to assist clients and other agency needs. A real plus has been the ability to have a "cloud" data storage unit that is also being replicated off-site as part of an emergency preparedness and disaster recovery plan.

**Your Dimes and Dollars Make a Difference!**

For many years our local 7-Eleven stores have had CEA donation boxes for their customers to contribute their change to our program. We appreciate their support because the money we collect is important for our work.

Now there are a dozen CEA collection boxes in businesses around town waiting for loose change and bills that help us fund our programs.

Once the money is picked up by volunteers it's sorted and deposited, and it actually has been helping to pay our bills. In the last year seven businesses have joined the 7-Eleven Stores in making a difference.

Please support our business friends, and whether you use a credit card or pay cash, have your change ready for the CEA boxes. Remember, we're counting on you!

A big thanks to the donation box volunteers: Mary Kay Willing, Bob Jones, Bernie Wengert, Peggy Carr, Doug and Pat Lafon, and Jane Byers.



**Donation Box Locations**

**Double T Diner**  
 N. Rolling Rd. / US 40



**Peace a Pizza**  
 15 Mellor Ave.



**7-Eleven Stores**  
 403 Frederick Rd.  
 1611 Edmondson Ave.  
 6350 Frederick Rd at Paradise Ave.  
 1313 Francis Ave., Arbutus

**Catonsville Pharmacy**  
 6350 Frederick Rd.



**Objects Found**  
 11 Egges Lane

**Sam's Bagels & More**  
 730 Frederick Rd.

**Lush Salon & Grooming Lounge**  
 35 Mellor Ave.

**Subway**  
 602 Frederick Road



**Narcissus Salon**  
 28 Bloomsbury Ave.



*Pictured above at the chili luncheon are (L-R): Jane Byers, Megan Murduck, CEA Executive Director, Janice Kellner, Pat Ward, and Martha Lochary.*

## February Fundraising Efforts Warmed Up a Cold Month

### **Chili Response Luncheon**

Thanks to Christian Temple for their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Chili Response luncheon fundraiser on Feb. 21. It's an event many look forward to. Some 150 people enjoyed chili and the fixings and heard about CEA's work from Megan Murduck, executive director. The luncheon raised nearly \$1,000.

### **Peace A Pizza Fundraiser**

Even though it was a stormy and foggy night, CEA's fundraiser with Peace A Pizza still packed the pizza shop for most of the four hours of the event. Many thanks to Sally Grace, owner of Peace A Pizza, and her staff who donated 20 percent of the proceeds, and to the CEA supporters who bought pizzas to eat in as well as to carry home. The pizza night raised \$450 that will help us to serve our neighbors in need with food, utility and eviction prevention assistance.

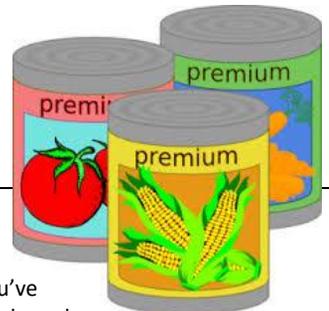
## Food Donations: Making a Difference

*Thanks to all of our donors!*

We're thankful for each of our donors whether you've dropped off a single can of coffee or cartons of canned goods. It is all put to good use. We received some especially large donations in the past couple of months. The largest came from St. Mark School which gave us nearly 1,300 pounds of food, and the Community Assistance Network which gave us over 1,100 pounds of canned and dry foods and refrigerated orange juice packs.

We also received 300 pounds of food from St. John's United Church of Christ, 350 pounds from Mount de Sales Academy, and 200 pounds each from Catonsville Presbyterian Church, Salem Lutheran Church and St. Agnes.

Other donors include: Catonsville United Methodist Church, United Muslim Relief, Wilderness B & B, Medwick Garth Community Association, Westchester Elementary School and the Catholic Community of Relay. Thanks all!



*The food counter at Peace A Pizza.*

## Think About Having A Food Drive

You can encourage a group of friends to gather for a potluck, cocktail party or birthday celebration and bring food to donate to Catonsville Emergency Assistance. Or hold a food drive for CEA where you work.

If you'd like to have your own food drive, please send an email to [volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org](mailto:volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org) describing your idea, and we will let you know the things we currently need most.

## CEA on display in Catonsville Library In February

CEA's Display at the Catonsville Library in February focused on hunger. Assistant Director Anna White (shown in photo below) assisted CEA board member Madelaine Fletcher to install the display. A typical bag of groceries for a family of two was shown along with library books and information showcasing CEA's efforts to help members of our community needing food assistance.



### Plant A Row For CEA

If you're planting a vegetable garden this spring, plant a row for CEA. Our clients love fresh vegetables, so we'd love to have your surplus fresh produce.

The best vegetables are the ones that people are familiar with and know how to cook such as green beans, peppers, tomatoes, corn, lettuce, squash and cabbage.

## Community Yard Sale Set For May 7<sup>th</sup>

Mark your calendar! CEA's second annual Community Yard sale is Saturday, May 7 on the grounds of Christian Temple, 5820 Edmondson Ave. across from Nunnery Lane.

Put aside your household items, games, working small appliances, vases, etc. that are in good condition. Bring these items *early* Saturday (7- 9 am) and stay to shop or lend a hand. We hope to sell out by 1 pm.

Our Neighbors Helping Neighbors fundraisers are important to help our neighbors in need.



Lucy Sears (L) and Jennie Murduck at last year's yard sale.

If you can volunteer to help with set up, pricing or take down, please send an email with your contact information to [volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org](mailto:volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org).

## Your Donations Help Those In Need

CEA relies on a generous community of supporters who help by donating money, time and food.

### Donate Money

We operate frugally and use donations responsibly. A gift to CEA is a wonderful way to recognize someone's milestone such as a birthday or anniversary. A memorial or honorary gift is a special way to remember deceased friends or relatives. You can make an online donation at <http://catonsvillehelp.org/donating-money/>. Or you can send a check to CEA, 25 Bloomsbury Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228.



### Donate Time

Volunteers are the backbone of CEA. Most volunteer opportunities are available during the day Monday through Thursday and sometimes on the weekend. We have a student volunteer afternoon most Wednesdays.

Some of the jobs our volunteers do include: Answering phone calls and taking messages, picking up food donations, sorting and stacking food, preparing food assistance packages, managing store room supplies, entering database statistics, building and grounds maintenance, and helping at special events such as the Holiday Toy Store and fundraising activities.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact our volunteer coordinator by email at [volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org](mailto:volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org), or go to our website, [www.catonsvillehelp.org](http://www.catonsvillehelp.org), and click on the Ways to Help header. Fill in the online form and submit it. Our volunteer coordinator will be in touch with you.

### Donate Food

We welcome your food donations of perishable, non-perishable, frozen food, and fresh fruits and vegetables as well as dry goods/hygiene products. CEA can provide clients a week's worth of emergency groceries once a month. The groceries for a family of two are valued at approximately \$75. The groceries for a family of five are valued at approximately \$140.

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