

How We Started

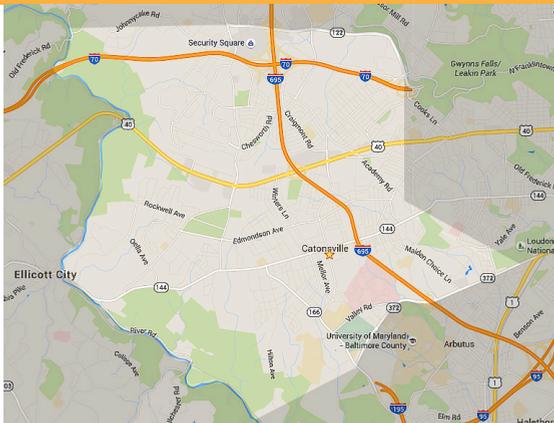
The organization began more than 30 years ago thanks to a generous woman named Alice March who wanted to give back to the Catonsville community. She began collecting food through church food drives. Alice's efforts were supported by 17 churches and became known as Catonsville Emergency Food Ministries.

The operation grew and individuals and civic organizations got involved by raising funds that allowed a move to larger quarters. We received public funding and were able to expand our services to include utility and eviction prevention assistance. In 2006, with support from Rotary, an anonymous donor, and a grant from the Baltimore County Office of Community Conservation, we bought our own building at 25 Bloomsbury Avenue, Catonsville.



CEA is a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization in Maryland, and receives funds from Baltimore County, which includes federal funds from the Department of Housing and Urban Development as well as private grants and donations.

Service Area



CEA's boundaries are: Security Boulevard to the north; the Baltimore City line on the east; Wilkens Avenue on the south; and the Howard County line on the west.

“We were already having a hard year because my husband’s income is so variable. We have two children, and one has a disability and needs therapy. We never expected to be in a situation where we had to ask for help, and it was difficult to do. But we got the help and we’re grateful.”

Regina R.

410-747-HELP (4357)

Neighbors Helping Neighbors



Catonsville
Emergency
Assistance

25 Bloomsbury Ave.
Catonsville, MD 21228
410-747-HELP (4357)
FAX: 410-747-0582

info@catonsvillehelp.org • www.catonsvillehelp.org
facebook.com/catonsvillehelp

Hours: Monday through Thursday from 9 am to 1 pm



Catonsville
Emergency
Assistance

We're Part of a Community That Cares...



is an emergency assistance organization run mostly by volunteers with a backbone of support from local churches, businesses, community groups, and private citizens.

What We Do

CEA serves greater Catonsville residents with emergency food, eviction prevention, and utility turn-off intervention. We rely on a generous community of donors to do this important and necessary work. While only open part-time, we are able to help clients, on average, more than 1,600 times per year.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

Hunger hurts everyone, but it is particularly bad for children. We supply clients with a week's worth of groceries monthly, if needed; or weekly, if someone is homeless. The groceries, which include canned and dry goods and protein such as meat and poultry, for a family of 2 are valued at approximately \$75. The groceries for a family of 5 are valued at approximately \$140.

IN MARYLAND, the wealthiest state in the nation, 1 in 8 people struggles with hunger.

“I’m retired and on a fixed income. Food and living expenses can be overwhelming. I’ve reduced my consumption, but without CEA’s assistance, I would be in dire straits.”

Joseph T.



UTILITY TURN-OFF PREVENTION ASSISTANCE

Energy costs can place severe stress on a family's budget, and sometimes the BGE bill just can't be paid. We provide financial assistance to income-eligible residents in our service area to prevent utility turn-offs.

EVICTION PREVENTION ASSISTANCE

Families facing immediate eviction because they are behind in paying their past-due rent have a limited number of options. We provide assistance to income-eligible residents within our service area. We make sure that the funds provided are sufficient for them to remain in their homes and not just pay back-rent while the eviction process goes forward.

OTHER SERVICES

Holiday Food and Gift Support. We offer clients extra help during the holidays with food and gifts for children.

Referrals to Other Agencies. We answer each request for help. If callers are out of our service area or need a service we don't provide, they are given phone numbers and addresses for other agencies that may be able to help them.

“I don't know how we would have gotten by without CEA; they were here for me when I needed it most.”

Curtis S.

“The best part of volunteering is that I'm helping in my community. I like being able to give back. What makes it so enjoyable for me is that the staff and other volunteers are so nice.”

Debbie K.

How You Can Help

Stand With Us.

There's a lot of work to do and we need your help.

Financial

Donations.

Funds are always needed to continue operating our assistance center. Your donation can directly help a neighbor facing a sudden eviction or the stress of having utilities turned off. Donate online at www.catonsvillehelp.org or mail a check to 25 Bloomsbury Ave., Catonsville, MD 21228.

Food and Other Grocery Items. Your food donations are always welcome. We accept perishable (fresh fruits and vegetables) and non-perishable grocery items year round, Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm, and other times by appointment. Call **410-747- HELP (4357)**. Several businesses in our community are also donation sites for CEA. Please see our website www.catonsvillehelp.org for donation sites and current food and dry goods needs.

Volunteer. Our more than 85 volunteers are the reason CEA keeps on going. There are two paid part-time staff, and all other work is done by volunteers including office work, picking up food donations, sorting and packing, and assisting with special events and fundraisers. Scout, school, and church groups, as well as community organizations and individuals, volunteer help through food drives. If you want to explore what you can do at CEA, send an email to volunteer@catonsvillehelp.org.

