



# Catonsville Emergency Assistance

January - March 2017

Check us out  
on Facebook!



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



## Looking Back and Going Forward



Megan M. Rigos,  
Executive Director

CEA is open 9am - 1pm  
Monday - Thursday



## Save the Date for Pizza!

**Tuesday, March 28th, 4 to 8 pm**

Tell your friends that the Peace a Pizza fundraiser will be **Tuesday, March 28th from 4 to 8 pm**. Eat in or take out. CEA will receive 20 percent of the sales if you mention CEA when you order.

A big thanks to Sally Grace, the owner of Peace a Pizza, for her generosity. Peace A Pizza is at 15 Mellor Ave., Catonsville. Call your order in to (410) 747-2255.

**AmazonSmile makes it easy  
for you to support CEA  
every time you shop.**



For more information see:  
<https://smile.amazon.com/about>

I want to wish you a healthy and happy New Year. I am thankful for the help and support from donors who generously gave food and funds, and the volunteers, both individuals, organizations and churches, who gave food, funds, and time in 2016. They are the backbone of CEA and the warmth and passion they have for our mission of helping our neighbors in need can't be overstated.

I'd like to share several stories of clients we helped this past year. The week before Christmas, Robert J. came to CEA looking for help. A recovering alcoholic, he had just completed training for health counseling certification. After his aunt died, he spent most of his small December paycheck to pay funeral costs.

Although he had just landed a job counseling other recovering alcoholics, the position wouldn't start for a month, and he was on the verge of being evicted. I am happy to report that CEA was able to help keep Robert in his apartment until he started his job this month.

Gloria P. had recently been left to care for her two children by herself. In order to keep her job, she had to spend \$150 a week for daycare. She was barely making ends meet. Gloria turned to CEA, and we were able to help her keep the lights on

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## Holiday Toy Shop: Guaranteed Happiness



CEA board member, Mary Cashour, at the toy shop with client Shelby Brown.

There were smiles all around at CEA's annual toy shop on December 21. Held at the Catonsville Clubhouse, the toy shop was attended by clients from 34 households who selected toys for nearly 100 children, from infants and youngsters up through age 17.

This annual event brings a lot of pleasure to volunteers as well as clients, and six volunteers helped make the day a success.

Special thanks go to the toy donors including individual community members, St. Mark Church, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Living Waters Catholic Community, The Friends of Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum, Catonsville United Methodist, Catonsville High School and Baltimore County's Catonsville Public Library.

## Have you heard of iGive?

iGive is an easy way to help CEA to raise funds to serve our neighbors in need. Each time you shop on line at one of the more than 1750 stores that are part of the iGive program, CEA earns money. From Ace Hardware to Zales Jewelers, a portion of your purchase goes to CEA.

The iGive website details the percentages, and many stores offer sales and coupons for iGive members.

It's easy to sign up. Just go to [www.iGive.com/join](http://www.iGive.com/join). And tell your friends and family too. It's free; there are no limits and no hidden fees. Sign up now and shop for a good cause.



### Looking Back Continued from page 1

This past summer Jeanette M. needed food. Fleeing domestic violence, she relocated to Catonsville leaving everything behind, including her job. Jeanette was living with her sister but had no money for food. We were able to give her approximately a week's worth of groceries and the promise that she could come back again. I am grateful to share in this rewarding work.

I am also grateful to have worked with our Program Assistant, Deb Henkel. And it is with a heavy heart that I bid Deb farewell. After five years at CEA, Deb retired at the end of December. She will be dearly missed. Not only was she a ray of sunshine for our clients, her selfless service to them and getting food to the hungry will always be remembered.

The New Year offers us a chance to renew our commitment to become a better version of ourselves. Join with us in 2017. Connect with us on our Facebook page or website, volunteer at CEA or at one of our upcoming events (now in the planning), or donate food or funds. I look forward to seeing you this year as we work to make CEA an even stronger part of Catonsville.

## Volunteer Focus: Patti Palattella



even years ago Patti Palattella dropped off some extra bread and rolls from a neighborhood party at CEA. The then-director said he

could use some help so she returned that afternoon. And she's been volunteering ever since. As she tells it, "I started out doing whatever needed to be done." That meant taking in donations, organizing and shelving food, and preparing bags of food for clients. She volunteered once or twice a week.

When Executive Director Megan Rigos began a student volunteer program for high school students several years ago, she tapped Patti to coordinate it. The program started small but little by little more students started volunteering.

Patti coordinates the student volunteers each Wednesday afternoon. "Towards the end of the school year, we had to limit the number of students to 10, both for reasons of space and because we want to make sure each student has a good volunteer experience," she said. "The kids are great, they do everything, and are a huge help when we get large food donations in the fall and winter."

And thanks to the popularity of the program, starting this fall Wednesday afternoons are reserved for the Catonsville High School Sharing Club volunteers.

In addition to working with the students, Patti likes to pitch in wherever there's a need, such as the CEA yard sale fundraisers, the holiday toy shop, and the CEA booth at Frederick Road Fridays.

*"I like volunteering," Patti said. "It's a small thing, but I feel like I'm contributing."*

And like many volunteers, she is generous with her time. "I belong to St. Mark and I am a Eucharistic minister to homebound and people in nursing homes," she said, adding that she also helps at Our Daily Bread, the Catholic Charities hot meal program, once a month.

"I like volunteering," Patti said. "It's a small thing but I feel like I'm contributing where there's a need," she said, "plus I enjoy meeting and talking with other volunteers and staff people." When she's not volunteering, she can be found working in her garden, at the Y, or helping her daughter who lives nearby in Ellicott City.

In fact, she got her granddaughter involved when she was a student at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and even though her granddaughter has since graduated, CEA remains as one of the school's projects.

**Thanks Patti!**



Catonsville High's Sharing Club volunteers and Patti. From left to right: Sophie Waterman, JW Yang, Patti Palattella, and Ana Hilliard.



## Catonsville Dental Care Gave a “Sweet” Donation

CEA had a “sweet donation” after Halloween thanks to Catonsville Dental Care. This year, for the first time, they held a Halloween candy buy-back. In the spirit of keeping the entire Catonsville community healthy, rather than donate the cavity causing candy, they decided to match and DOUBLE the donation dollar amount for CEA. They made lots of children and parents happy and healthy! Thanks Catonsville Dental Care.



*Dr. Scott Eisen of Catonsville Dental Care delivers a check to CEA and Program Assistant Deb Henkel was happy to receive it.*

## New Food Drop-Off Site



The Catonsville office of Orthopaedic Associates of Central Maryland (OACM) is our newest drop off site for your food donations. OACM is at 910 Frederick Road in Catonsville, and they will accept dry and canned food donations for CEA during their office hours Monday–Friday: 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Space is limited so a 1 or 2 bag donation is all they can accept.



## Our Friends and Neighbors Were Generous

CEA is fortunate to have generous friends and neighbors who donated food throughout the fall. The donations allowed us to provide additional holiday food for clients for Thanksgiving and Christmas again this year.

Special thanks go to St. Mark as this is the fourth November it has had a food drive for CEA. Usually more than a ton of food is collected then weighed, sorted, and boxed at the church and brought to CEA and shelved. This year they contributed approximately 4,000 pounds of food. Additionally St. Mark gives CEA a monthly gift of \$1700 to help with overhead, and their Social Justice Committee delivers weekly food donations to CEA from church collection bins. A shout out goes to Oak Crest Community Association which contributed 1,500 pounds of food in November, and to Catonsville High's Student Sharing Club; their community Halloween Food Drive brought in more than 2,600 pounds of food.

We are grateful for every can and box of food brought to us from individuals, community organizations and businesses including: Christian Temple, Catholic Community at Relay, Catonsville United Methodist Church, Salem Lutheran Church, St. Agnes Credit Union, St. John's United Church of Christ, Catonsville Recreation and Parks, Catonsville Assembly of God, Catonsville Rotary, Kreative Kidz, Avalon Yoga and Wellness Center, Catonsville Middle School, T-Mobile and the Catonsville Senior Center, among others.



*From left: Aidan Chairs, Will Bateman, and Hawkins Howe pause during the sorting and packing at St. Mark.*



*Lindsay Carter (left) and Declan Kirby of St. Mark were enthusiastic about helping with the food drive.*



*Below: Three local offices of T-Mobile joined together to donate more than 100 pounds of food.*



## Money Matters Workshop at Catonsville Library

CEA, in partnership with the Baltimore County Library Catonsville Branch, is holding a workshop on financial basics including budgeting and improving your credit score. Classes are free and open to the public and will be publicized to our clients.

Both sessions, which will be taught by bankers from Woodforest National Bank, will be the same. The bank will provide refreshments. There are two sessions scheduled at the Catonsville Library located at 1100 Frederick Road.

- Tuesday, February 28, at 7 pm
- Saturday, March 4, at 1 pm

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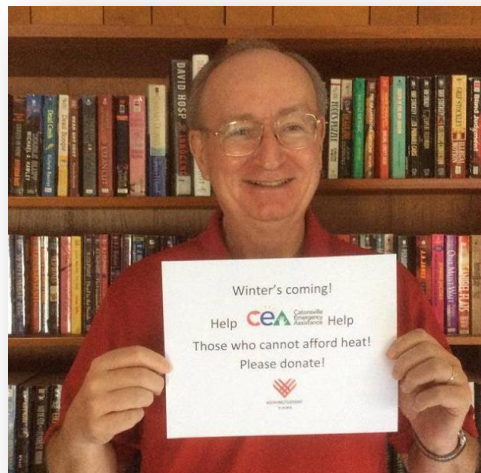
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Madeline Fletcher  
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## Inclement Weather Policy

CEA follows the Baltimore County School System for closures and late openings in the event of inclement weather conditions.

## #GivingTuesday, A Big Success



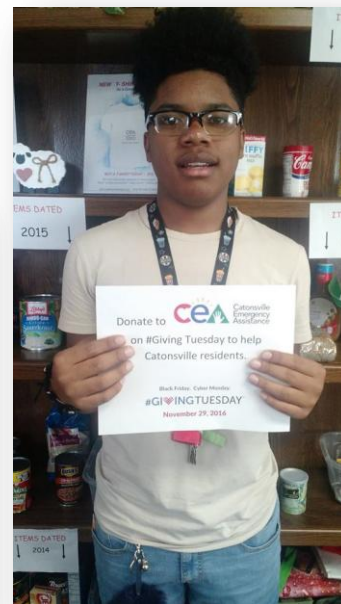
Pat Dempsey, CEA volunteer, is shown getting the word out about donating to CEA.



Thanks to everyone who participated in #GivingTuesday on November 29, (and the remainder of the week). And thanks to the CEA board members who contributed \$1400 to match donations. We collected \$3,550 surpassing our goal of \$2800. All funds go towards our utility turn-off program, helping keep the lights and heat on for our Catonsville neighbors in need.

We are pleased to report that this was a no-cost fundraiser, as it was done on the Internet and mostly through Facebook. Members of a dedicated social media team, headed by volunteer Ed Cohen, posted messages regularly on their Facebook pages to spread the word. Thanks to everyone who served as a CEA ambassador for this effort.

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving that is celebrated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, following the shopping events of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Started five years ago, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many people focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. This year CEA was part of #GivingTuesday for the first time, joining people in 98 countries where some \$168 million was raised for good causes such as ours.



Tyrone Culbreath, Jr., one of our Catonsville High School volunteers, doing his part to spread the word about #GivingTuesday.



## All That Change Adds Up



The donation boxes at area businesses stuffed with change and bills provide much needed funds for CEA. Community donations, both large and small, are essential to the services we provide to our neighbors in need. The change and bills add up! Look for our boxes when you shop and dine out in the Catonsville area. We now have boxes at 14 locations!

Find them at: Paradise Café, Cafe on the Grove, Sam's Bagels & More, Peace A Pizza, Taneytown Sandwiches, Bob Evans Restaurant, Double T Diner, Catonsville Pharmacy, 7-Eleven Stores (4 locations), Objects Found, and Narcissus Salon.

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