



October – December 2017

Check us out on  
Facebook!



CEA is open 9am - 1pm  
Monday - Thursday

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



## Food Drives Help Fill Empty Shelves

### Facebook Food Drive Nets Over 800 Pounds of Food

By August, CEA's food supply gets really low. It happens every year. This year, however, Program Assistant Mandy Zivin decided she'd personally do something about it. Mandy held her own Facebook Food Drive. "It was really easy," she said. "I called it a Back-to-School Food Drive, and reached out to about 25 local friends on Facebook," she said. In turn, she asked them to reach out to some of their friends and neighbors for food donations. She posted a list of what CEA needed most and picked a date when food needed to be collected. Mandy made it easy because she said she'd pick up the food or it could be dropped off on her front porch.

To keep things going she posted videos and photos promoting the drive. And just like that, over 800 pounds of food were collected. Then she pressed her sons into service to lug it to CEA and weigh it. "Best of all, we got food that we could use for our clients immediately," she said.



*Oliver Zivin was very proud that his mom Mandy collected 828.9 pounds of food!*

*Mandy Zivin (left) with food donations collected by Vanessa Williams, Catonsville Presbyterian Church Family Childcare Center Director.*



## Save the Date: Holiday Toy Shop!

**Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at  
Catonsville United Methodist Church**

Help make the holidays even more special for local families in need through CEA's Holiday Toy Shop. New, unwrapped toys can be donated and dropped off at the Catonsville United Methodist Church (CUMC) office starting November 26<sup>th</sup>.

CUMC is located at 6 Melvin Ave.

### Urgent Food Needs

If you'd like to donate food, some of our most urgent needs are:

Pancake Mix and Syrup • Muffin Mix • Pasta Sides • Potato Sides • Mashed Potatoes • Rice Sides • Cake Mix • Brownie Mix • Frosting • Peanut Butter • Canned Corn • Canned Meals • Chicken Soup • Canned Fruit

Of course, we humbly welcome all your donations.

### Bins About Town

The Rotary Club of Catonsville - Sunrise Foundation has been conducting a summer food drive to benefit CEA. It started in July and is running through the end of October. Look for the Rotary/CEA baskets around town! You can find them at: 5Linx, Catonsville Dental Care, Chef Paolino's Cafe, McDonald's, Narcissus Hair Salon, Objects Found, Planet Fitness, and the Y of Catonsville. Additional sponsors will be posted to the Rotary's Facebook page.



*Planet Fitness on Rt. 40 is a collection site. Shown is Club Manager Byron Fate setting up a basket.*

## Watch for #GivingTuesday on November 28<sup>th</sup>

# #GIVING TUESDAY

Get ready to participate! CEA will be part of this global day of giving on Tuesday, Nov. 28. Celebrated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

On November 28th, join the movement and GIVE - whether it's some of your time, a donation, or a gift. And use the power of social media to help us keep the lights on for our neighbors in need. All donations received during the #GivingTuesday campaign will go to our utility fund.

## Frederick Road Fridays Fundraiser

CEA was the beneficiary of the August 4th Frederick Road Friday beer and wine tent. The Catonsville Chamber of Commerce-sponsored event netted CEA \$1,151. Many thanks go to all the volunteers who helped throughout!



Peggy Carr (left), Pastor Dave Asendorf, and Jane Byers enjoying themselves at the event.

## Birthday Good Deeds



One of our regular volunteers, Lily Mahoney, celebrated her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday with some of her friends at CEA. The girls assembled 41 bags for our homeless clients. A birthday pizza celebration at a nearby restaurant capped the good works of these youngsters.



From left: Lily Mahoney, Ella Lesniewski, Emma Saverino, and Lindsay Wall.

## Helping Our Clients

Between January and June, CEA helped **nearly 600 people**, mostly providing clients with food, and also offering utility turn-off intervention and eviction prevention assistance. Winter or summer, the need does not diminish.

For example, Lucy\* lost her job and got behind in rent payments. The single mother of an adult child still at home, she was working hard to avoid eviction when she came to CEA. Lucy had gotten some money from several churches as well as family members, and the Department of Social Services (DSS) was willing to give her \$500 if she could cover the balance of \$500. CEA was able to help with the \$500 and sent the required promissory note and check to DSS. As a result, Lucy was able to remain in her home.

Since receiving help, she has had the amount of her rental voucher increased, allowing her to stay on top of bills as she continues to look for a job. Lucy was so grateful to CEA for helping her change her circumstances that she brought in a thank you card for our staff.

Another client, Ray\*, is a young man in his 30s. Ray is a single father raising a young son. After an apartment fire, they lost everything. Although he works full time, he was struggling to pay the bills as he dealt with the aftermath of the fire and issues with the apartment management. CEA helped him with his BGE bill enabling him to pay it in full.

Ray and his son have gotten a new apartment, and while they come to CEA for food assistance, they feel like things are getting back to normal.

There are many others like Lucy and Ray, and thanks to the generosity of our donors, CEA can help them in their time of need. If you'd like to give please go to <http://catonsvillehelp.org/online-donation>.

*\* Note: All names have been changed to protect the identity of our clients.*

## Inclement Weather Policy

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





## Outreach at the Arts & Crafts Festival

CEA had a booth at the recent Catonsville Arts and Crafts Festival thanks to a generous donor at Salem Lutheran Church who paid for CEA's booth space. It gave us the chance to connect with the community, and let attendees know who we are and what we're doing in Catonsville.



Board member Madelaine Fletcher and volunteer Ed Hofstetter under CEA's tent.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Jane Byers



**J**ane Byers, a long-time CEA volunteer, seems to always be in motion. She's a watercolor artist, volunteer, former teacher and realtor.

She started volunteering at CEA by filling food bags. At the time she was looking for a charity to receive the profits from her book titled "Gardens of Catonsville." CEA turned out to be the lucky charity.

The book of her watercolor paintings of Catonsville gardens was a labor of love. She interviewed 30 gardeners, wrote the text, photographed and painted the gardens. Her biggest hurdle was learning the computer programs needed to publish the book.

After joining the CEA board of directors, Jane expanded CEA's newsletter and took charge of mailing it. For a time she was the volunteer coordinator, always keeping her eyes out for new volunteers and matching them with jobs. One of her long-running projects has been the donation boxes that are in a dozen businesses around town.

These boxes were first built of wood in a carpentry class at Catonsville High School and over the years some disappeared and little cash was collected. So Jane added some clear acrylic boxes. "The community has responded and we collected over \$4,000 in the past couple of years," she said. While she recently retired from the board, she continues to chair the donation box committee and has two volunteers helping her collect the money.



A former school teacher, Jane taught grades 4-8 in Michigan, South Carolina, locally, and in France. After her 20-year real estate career, she has spent the past 14 years teaching in the Osher Lifelong Learning program at Towson University. Jane knows Catonsville from years as a Realtor and office manager with Long & Foster.

*"I'm project-oriented," Jane said, "and I like to be useful."*



She's never out of ideas, and her one of her latest was to create CEA T-shirts and design the CEA banner which was seen in the 4th of July parade. Everyone at CEA is glad this whirlwind is on our team. Go Jane!

## Meet Our Newest Board Members



**Jason Fisher** represents Catonsville United Methodist Church and is a financial analyst with Northrop Grumman. He is the Board Treasurer.



**Laura Fisher** represents Catonsville United Methodist Church and works in brand management for McCormick Spice Company.



**Latrice Jackson**, a community member, is Residential Rehabilitation Program Manager with Humanim in Columbia.



**Jerry Hazelwood** represents St. John's United Church of Christ. A retired architect, he is now in his 2nd career as Compliance Manager for Habitat for Humanity of the Chesapeake.



**Pastor Rick Powell** represents Christian Temple. His congregation has been involved with CEA since its inception as a project of the Catonsville Ministerium.



**Julia Rohde** represents Catonsville United Methodist Church. She is a retired educator and real estate agent.

## Summer Fundraisers Help Fill Coffers

On July 20, the Carroll Park Ladies Golf organization held its annual charity event and CEA received \$1,406 as a result. Thanks to Mary Carol Greenwalt who promoted CEA as the event's recipient!

On August 25, the BricknFire Pizza Co. had a Craft Beer Tasting at the Breadery. CEA received \$445 from the event. Thanks to the Breadery for allowing CEA to be receiving charity for the second time this year!



Jason and Laura Fisher poured beer samples at the August 25<sup>th</sup> event.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### STAFF

Program Assistant  
 Mandy Zivin

### NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Madelaine Fletcher  
 Peggy Carr  
 Laura Fisher, Layout Design

## CDBG Funds Help Residents Meet Challenges



A critical CEA funding resource for over a decade has been the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

The CDBG began in 1974, designed to be a flexible program providing communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs, and is one of the longest continuously run programs at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. The program is an important tool for helping local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities. The CDBG program has made a difference in the lives of millions of people across the nation. The annual CDBG appropriation is allocated between States and local jurisdictions. Baltimore County received \$3.6 million in CDBG funds for 2017, which in turn was awarded to 19 non-profit service providers through a competitive public service grant program. These funds assisted the needs of our most vulnerable residents: the homeless, the disabled, the elderly, the poor and victims of domestic violence.

In fiscal year 2017, CDBG-funded public service grants provided service to 6,295 County residents. With the approximately \$40,000 in CDBG funds that CEA received, we were able to provide food assistance and eviction prevention resources to keep 1,144 clients from becoming homeless in the past fiscal year.

Unfortunately, CDBG funding is in jeopardy for the coming year. The Trump administration budget sent to Congress in March would eliminate the \$3 billion CDBG funding. In its place the administration proposes to "devolve community and economic development activities to the State and local level, and redirect Federal resources to other activities." However, eliminating the CDBG will not decrease the demand for housing and services and CEA will struggle to replace these much-needed funds if that happens.

## Proposed Cuts to Anti-hunger Programs 'Most Significant' in Decades

*Excerpted from a letter to editor of the Baltimore Sun by the president of the Maryland Food Bank*

As more activists and organizations join the growing food recovery movement, it's tempting to believe that food rescue is a new phenomenon. But we've been at it for nearly 40 years.

In 1979, the Maryland Food Bank was formed as the nation's third food bank with a simple idea: rescue good-quality food that would be otherwise thrown away and use it to help struggling families put food on the table. The basic premise of the work we do has not changed, although almost everything else has — particularly the quality of the food we distribute.

Last year, nearly 20 percent of the food we distributed was fresh fruits and vegetables harvested from Maryland farms, much of which would otherwise have gone to waste.

The food bank has been content to remain behind the scenes, rescuing vast quantities of good food and providing it to community-based groups that feed vulnerable Marylanders. But proposed cuts to federal food assistance programs are prompting us to take a more vocal stance.

Right now, we are facing the most significant threats to the federal nutrition safety net in decades. The current administration's proposed cuts to anti-hunger programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) would lead to the loss of at least 45 billion meals over 10 years nationwide, at a time when the charitable food system is already stretched thin, with 1 in 9 Marylanders lacking regular access to healthy food.

We urge all Marylanders to take an active role in protecting the critical sources of food assistance already in place: federal programs like SNAP and TEFAP as well as the Maryland Food Bank. Visit [www.mdfoodbank.org/hunger-action-center](http://www.mdfoodbank.org/hunger-action-center) to find contact information for your local, state and federal lawmakers.

*Carmen Del Guercio is president and CEO of the Maryland Food Bank; [carmen@mdfoodbank.org](mailto:carmen@mdfoodbank.org).*

*Note: Maryland Food Bank supplies food to CEA.*



Here is a link to the complete letter:  
<https://www.mdfoodbank.org/news-events/press-coverage/>.

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