

Catonsville Emergency Assistance

FALL 2026 / WINTER 2027

CEA NEWSLETTER

WE'RE ALMOST THERE!

The season of giving is here, and the gift of a new CEA food distribution center is nearly ready to be unwrapped! With the support of Harkins Builders, Frederick Ward Associates, Alliance Advisory and many other local building material experts and suppliers, our new building is set for completion as early as mid-November!

We have watched in amazement as our Bloomsbury Avenue property food pantry has been transformed. From the demolition of our original two-story home turned food pantry, to the completion of our new one-story distribution center, we are waiting with great anticipation to be able to streamline our operations. And we are excited about the ability of our more than 40-year-old organization to continue to better serve our neighbors in need.

The Catonsville community has been watching and supporting our progress on social media, but we believe that the words of our CEA founder, Alice March, say it best:

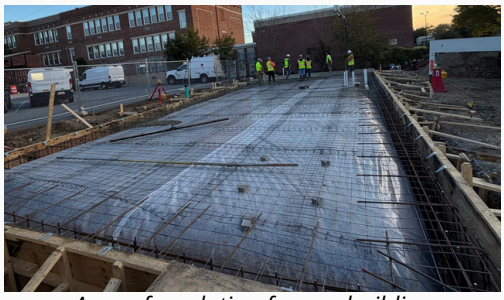
What a beautiful site! I never could have imagined this would be possible. My family moved to Catonsville in 1985 and saw an unmet need of resources for our neighbors. Soon after we formed a small food pantry in our basement... Very quickly we outgrew our meager pantry. Moving often and after four decades, this organization is still a sustainable staple and success.

With sincere gratitude
Founder Alice March Vilandre

As we enter the holiday season, we are grateful for this year of great transformation for our small-non-profit organization. And, with your continued support, we look forward to welcoming the new year in a new building with renewed hope for supporting those who are most vulnerable in our community.

Happy Holidays from everyone at CEA!

Caitlin Kirby, Executive Director



A new foundation for our building



Our new food distribution center takes shape



A sneak peak inside our new center

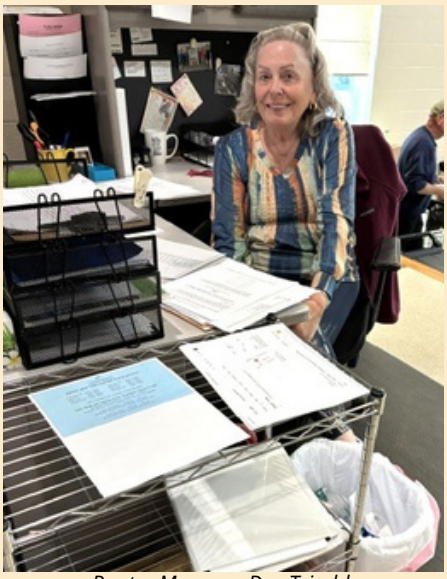
Challenging But Workable: Operating in Temporary Quarters

In April, when CEA moved its food operation to Immanuel United Church of Christ on Edmondson Avenue, it meant switching up the donating, sorting and storage procedures.

Neighbors pick up their food at Immanuel, and food donations and deliveries go there too. Some food is stored on site for immediate distribution, but because space is limited, larger quantities of food are transported and stored at Salem Lutheran Church on Newburg Avenue and moved back to Immanuel as needed. This constant movement of food is handled and managed by staff and volunteers who are dedicated to making it work in order to continue to serve our neighbors in need while construction of our new Food Distribution Center continues at 23 Bloomsbury Avenue.

At Immanuel, food is neatly shelved and boxed so bags can be easily assembled by volunteers. CEA uses what was once a stage as well as part of the large room near the stage. “The church has been so generous with their space,” said Martha Lochary, a longtime volunteer.

“We have never stopped serving our neighbors, even in the middle of moving,” Pantry Manager Dee Trimble said. “As we transitioned that first month, we gave out grocery gift cards so that neighbors would not be without food.” She added that if neighbors can’t get to this temporary location, CEA provides them with a list of other nearby food resources where they can turn. As our organization eagerly awaits access to our new Food Distribution Center, CEA remains dedicated to providing our neighbors in need with food and resources.



Pantry Manager Dee Trimble



Food storage and bagging area



Volunteer Mike Pruitt getting bags ready

Taste of Catonsville Was a Big Hit

It was a delicious night at CEA's signature fundraising event – the Taste of Catonsville. Thirteen local restaurants showcased some of their most popular dishes to everyone's delight! Held on Oct. 1 at the Knights of Columbus banquet facility, the evening also featured raffle items ranging from Ravens tickets to a pasta making class at Culinary Craft Workshop. A live auction featured a 4 Course Dinner with Bourbon Pairing for 6 at State Fare, a Happy Hour for 10 at Iamp's at Jennings Café, and a week-long beach house rental in Corolla, North Carolina. **Between ticket sales, raffles and the auction, the event raised over $22,000 which will go a long way towards helping CEA serve our Greater Catonsville neighbors.**

Kudos to the following local restaurants for making this night a success:
The Atlantic, Atwater's, The Beaumont, Catonsville Gourmet, Chef Paolino Café Doozy's Diner, El Guapo, Franco's Italian Bistro, G.L. Shacks Grill, Iamp's at Jennings Café, Pat's Porch/Scoops, Rolling Road Golf Club, and State Fare.

And thanks to the local businesses and friends who provided the auction items:
Narcissus Salon and Spa, Culinary Craft Workshop, Laura Harry/Arbonne, Megan Miller-Minderlein – The Miller Team of Northrop Realty, Mandy and Sparky Zivin, Sam Moxley, Charlie Brown, and CEA Board Members.



Jennings Café getting ready to provide delicious food



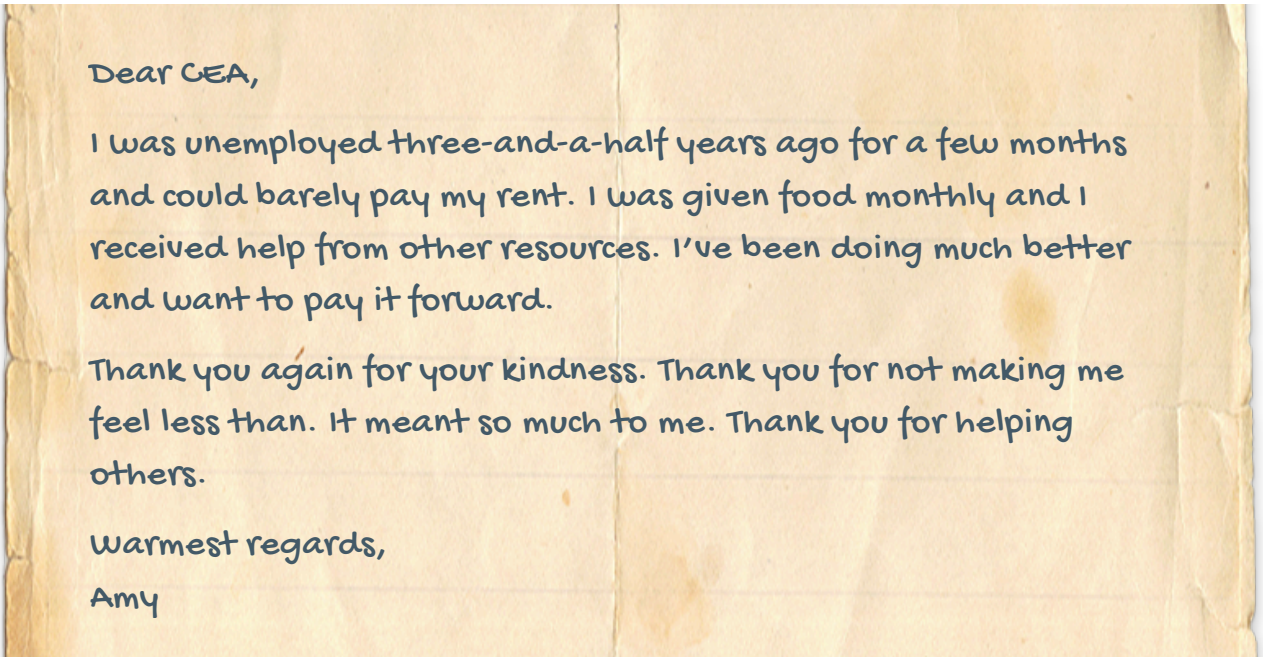
New Hope Community Church members enjoying the Taste of Catonsville



Greg Morgan and Caitlin Kirby selecting raffle winners

You Were There for Me

Thank you to Amy (last name withheld for privacy) for sending this letter to us and allowing us to share it with our wider community:



Dear CEA,

I was unemployed three-and-a-half years ago for a few months and could barely pay my rent. I was given food monthly and I received help from other resources. I've been doing much better and want to pay it forward.

Thank you again for your kindness. Thank you for not making me feel less than. It meant so much to me. Thank you for helping others.

Warmest regards,
Amy

Events Coming Up

- **Turkey Day for our neighbors is Friday, Nov. 13.** Thanks to State Fare for donating and distributing the turkeys this year. Clients also will receive shelf stable holiday related items in addition to the everyday food normally distributed.
- **Arbutus Middle School Food Drive, Tuesday, Nov. 10.**
- **Narcissus Salon Food Collection November 18 - December 18.** Anyone donating food in the salon will be entered to win a gift card for a facial with an add on of their choice! Address: 28 Bloomsbury Ave., Catonsville, MD.
- **Better World Imaginarium, 924 Frederick Road, will donate 10% of sales to CEA on Saturday, Nov. 21.**
- **Catonsville High School Student Sharing Coalition Food Drive, Saturday, Nov. 21.**

Recent Events

- **The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints held a food donation drive on Saturday, October 31st and provided over 500 pounds of shelf-staple food.**
- **Mount de Sales Academy held a food drive called Stuff the Bus for CEA on Nov.1st. This drive brought in 310 pounds of food.**

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