



The Helpers Fund

Always Ready With A Helping Hand

The Chestertown / Helpers Fund Food Pantry

The Chestertown / Helpers Fund Food Pantry, under the supervision of Amy Culver of Chestertown, provided special food assistance to 61 families, a total of 143 adults and children, for the Christmas-New Year Holiday Period. The Pantry also provided food assistance to 52 families, a total of 117 adults and children, for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday.

In addition, the Pantry provides an average of 35-40 families a month with food assistance. This translates to 70-90 adults and children. With the Fund now sponsoring the Pantry, there is a probability of this number increasing.

The Food Pantry is a combined responsibility between the Town of Chester and the Helpers Fund. The Food Bank of Northeast New York requires sponsorship of a 501(c)3 charity¹ before allowing a food pantry to obtain food from the Bank at the lowest price possible.

The Town is responsible for providing the facility for the Pantry, and the hiring of the person supervising the Pantry; while the Fund is responsible for the ordering of food, the eligibility of those receiving food, the healthful condition of the food, the training of volunteers, and maintaining the health standards for the Pantry. The Fund signs an agreement with the Food Bank, assuming these responsibilities, as well as being responsible for the financial dealings between the Food Pantry and the Food Bank

Carl Lamm, director of the Fund said, "Ms. Culver has made it quite easy for us in meeting those



Amy Culver, Food Pantry supervisor, checks the fridge preparing for the next delivery.

responsibilities while we learn the day-to-day workings of the Food Pantry." Mary Jane Dower of Chestertown, a member of the Fund's Board of Directors, will be the Fund's representative to the Food Pantry.

The Food Bank of NE NY also meets once or twice a year with each sponsoring Food Pantry to update procedures and agreements as well as discussing the operation of the individual Food Pantry.

The Fund is considering ways of communicating to the residents of the Town of Chester, on a regular basis, as to the workings and financial status of the Food Pantry and the numbers of people being served by the Food Pantry.

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Donations to the Food Pantry may be made by sending your donation to the Helpers Fund, Inc., with a note in the “memo” portion of the check stating “Food Pantry.” You may also make your donations out to “Chestertown/Helpers Fund Food Pantry,” without making a notation on the “memo” portion of the check. Use either of these methods to make sure your donation goes directly to the Food Pantry Account. You may also make a donation with a credit card by going to the Fund’s web site www.helpersfund.org or helpersfund.org then going to the “Contribution” page and checking the line “Food Pantry.”

In the past many people have made donations directly to the Food Pantry sending their donation to the Town of Chester, or directly to the Food Pantry. You may continue using that procedure, and all donations handled in that matter would continue to be tax-deductible. Whichever way you make your donation is fine.

Thank you for your support.

Carl Lamm
f/The Helpers Fund Board of Directors

¹ Food pantries can operate without the sponsorship of a certified 501(c)3 charity, and still receive food from the Northeast Food Bank of New York, but the rules and regulations change and the costs more than double, if not triple, in some situations. In addition the non-sponsoring food pantry has a lesser priority than the sponsored food pantry, meaning during times where shortages might exist, sponsored food pantries have priority. In addition, the full cost of operating a non-sponsored food pantry is solely dependent on the ability of that food pantry to raise the necessary funds. There are additional advantages the sponsored food pantry receives.