

### **How You Can Help**

Help stock our shelves! Clean out your pantry or go to the market and buy non-perishable food to donate.

Monetary donations are always welcomed. Please make checks payable to Paoli Presbyterian Church Food Closet.

Organize a Food Drive! We can help you plan a drive with your family, community group, organization, or company.

Volunteer with our Ministry Team. Any amount of time you have to offer is a blessing to our clients!

# Paoli Presbyterian Food Closet

In 2010, 46.2 million Americans lived in poverty--the highest total since record keeping began more than half a century ago.

The share of Americans who lived below the official poverty line is now 15.1 percent. The figure for children was even higher -- 22 percent. That means that almost a quarter of American children live in poverty.

Many households in our area are dealing with food insecurity. This condition exists when people lack sustainable physical or economic access to enough safe, nutritious, and socially acceptable food for a healthy and productive life.

#### Our Role

Today we share food with those in need in three main areas: Monthly Distribution, Holiday Distribution and Emergency Distribution. This mission is largely supported by food and money from our congregation along with food drives by area community groups and the Paoli Post Office. We also take part in state and federally funded assistance programs.

We never turn away anyone who is in need of food!

### Monthly Distribution

Once a month, the Food Closet team distributes food to area residents who qualify through the federal guidelines of The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the State Food Purchases Program. Approximately one week worth of well balanced, nutritional food is provided.

## **Holiday Distribution**

During the holidays of Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas approximately 200 families are served during each distribution. Because only donated food is used, many more families are able to participate. These boxes are handed out a few days before the holiday and contain meat, fresh fruits and vegetables, canned food and other needed items.

### **Emergency Distribution**

Any family who contacts the church directly for food is helped. They receive a week's supply of food and information on how to receive help with our program or other nearby agencies. The Chester County Food Bank is an excellent resource for those individuals or families who need food supplementation due to their current circumstances.



We welcome your participation and support!

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