



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
FOOD BANK

FY20 IMPACT REPORT

HUNGER PANDEMIC

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020



AAFOODBANK.ORG

LEADERSHIP LETTER

Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

Who could have guessed when we were starting out Fiscal Year 2020 in July 2019 by signing a 15-year lease extension and putting a new roof on our building that the world would be hit by a deadly global pandemic that would completely change life as we knew it?

On March 11, 2020, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan issued a stay-at-home order in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The next day, schools, child-care centers, and workplaces closed, and hundreds of thousands of people were furloughed from their jobs.

Business owners, employees, and gig workers alike were left in financial limbo. Unemployment numbers skyrocketed while unemployment benefits were difficult, at best, to obtain. Residents went weeks and months without financial benefits as a result of a suddenly overwhelmed Department of Labor system that was doing their best to respond to the epic volume of need.

People began hoarding food and household basics, immediately wiping store shelves clean. Grocery stores' inventory of donated items was depleted as supply chains were abruptly halted. All of our major food drives were canceled and we had no idea how we were going to meet the daily increasing need for food and basic necessities in Anne Arundel County.

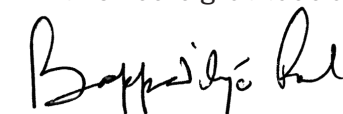
Immediately, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank saw a 71% decrease in food donations while our emergency food pantries experienced a 300% increase in the number of people seeking food and basic necessities; 53% of whom had never been to a food pantry before.

We lost our warehouse workforce and volunteers. Pantries largely staffed by volunteers, many of whom are health-vulnerable seniors, closed their doors. Soup kitchens closed or started providing bagged lunches.

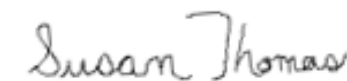
Within days of sending out a desperate call to action, our pantry and agency partners sprang into action and the generosity of Anne Arundel County residents and businesses kicked in with food and money. And our staff team, newly designated "essential employees," has worked tirelessly and we can't thank them enough for their persistence, creativity, focus, and heart.

We can't know what the future holds as we all continue to take one day at a time in the new Pandemic-caused economic and social reality. But **THANKS to YOU and your generosity, thousands of your neighbors – children, families, seniors, people experiencing homelessness, Veterans, and more – have been fed healthy, nutritious food. Because of your kindness and caring, we can carry on ensuring no one in Anne Arundel County goes hungry.**

With sincere gratitude and appreciation,



Bappa Pal, Board Chair



Susan Thomas, Executive Director

MISSION

The mission of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) is to fight hunger by ensuring that all those in need have access to food, nutritional supplements, and baby food.

Founded in 1986, the AACFB was established to collect, purchase, and distribute food to nonprofit organizations in Anne Arundel County.

We work alongside local, county, community, and civic organizations to provide food for the hungry and essential basic necessities to those in need and to help families and individuals get out of crisis and become self-sufficient.

VISION

No one in Anne Arundel County goes hungry.

I am grateful for you guys. I am a contractor with a family of 7, since this has started I have been unable to work. This has been a blessing for my family, this is one less thing I have to worry about. The food that we receive here has helped us tremendously. We greatly appreciate all that you are doing and that you are out here every week doing it. – Anonymous Client

Fighting hunger and giving hope since 1986



GENEROSITY

AACFB strives every day to fill the countywide gaps to food access caused by job loss, mental and physical health issues, limited to no access to transportation, supermarkets or fresh produce, and other factors. We rely on the financial support of *thousands* of generous individuals, businesses, foundations, and the county, state, and federal government to ensure ongoing operations and sufficient food and other necessities.

EVERY DOLLAR AND
EVERY POUND WE RECEIVE
MAKES A DIFFERENCE.



THANKS to each and every one of you for caring about your neighbors enough to give!

Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, we were serving around 25,000 people a month. *Since the Pandemic hit, we have been serving 60,000 individuals a month -- over double the number of people going to pantries countywide for food and other essentials.* As the Pandemic wreaks havoc on our health, the economy, and our social fabric, the significantly increased need for food and the food bank's services will continue.

– Susan Thomas, Executive Director

The FY20 financials are not yet audited.

You may obtain a copy of the FY19 audited financial statements at www.aafoodbank.org

PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

We could not do what we do for the residents most in need in Anne Arundel County without our partners and volunteers and we thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Member Agencies and Partners

Thank you to our **132 Member Agencies** who give their all every day to provide the much-needed food and other essential resources to those who need them most

And, thank you to our **30 county, community, and civic organization Partners** that refer clients in need and work to ensure that no one falls through the cracks.

See www.aafoodbank.org for a list of Member Agencies and Partners.



Volunteers

Volunteers contributed 12,129 hours in FY20. While volunteer service is priceless, the dollar value of their time = \$67,152.

Volunteers sort food, produce, toiletries, cleaning products, clothing, and other donated items. Civic organizations, churches, youth groups, neighborhoods, students, business employees, individuals, and families volunteer consistently and give their time and energy.



LIVING & GIVING CLOSE TO HOME



PROGRAMS

Food and basic necessities provided to:

- 79 food pantries,
- 41 school backpack programs,
- 13 baby pantries,
- 24 shelters,
- 10 senior pantries,
- 6 soup kitchens,
- 5 clothing pantries, and
- 3 pet pantries.



2.6 Million Pounds of Food
Delivered to Member Agencies
\$5,000,000 Value



Pantry Distribution Program – Fifty-seven food pantries provided bags of food for 171,204 residents in need and 78,103 households that included frozen meats, breads, pastries, produce, donated canned, dry, and perishable foods. In addition, most pantries distributed toiletries and cleaning supplies as well.



On-Site Feeding Program – We partnered with the Maryland Department of Human Resources to make sure that congregate feeding sites always had a hot meal to offer those experiencing homelessness and hunger. During COVID-19, many of these sites closed or turned to bag lunches to adapt to the restrictions. We provided approximately 180,913 meals to 56,952 individuals at 11 shelters and six soup kitchens.



Baby Pantries – Thirteen baby pantries ensured that 3,573 individuals and 1,471 families with infants and toddlers had access to diapers, formula, and other infant and toddler essentials.



Senior Pantries – Many (43%) seniors live below the United Way’s Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) survival threshold meaning they have incomes above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic standards of living. Ten senior pantries helped to ensure that 931 seniors and those with limited income, diet constraints, and other health restrictions were not left at risk of hunger or malnutrition.



Pet Pantries – Sixty-two percent of American households own at least one pet and many pet owners admit that they will go without to ensure their pet has food to eat. Pets provide numerous health and psychological benefits and during the COVID-19 quarantine, pets may be the only physical contact a human has with another living being. Local stores donated nearly \$55,000 worth of pet items (e.g. food, treats, litter) to three pet pantries that distributed the donations to 368 pet families and two local pet shelters.

PROGRAMS



Backpack Buddies Program – In partnership with the Anne Arundel County Public School System and local churches, we helped to provide a backpack containing four meals and snacks that went home with 14,333 students on FARMS (the federal Free and Reduced-price Meal program) in 41 schools.



Pop-Up Essential Pantries – Occasional distribution of non-food basic necessities that are donated from time to time, including blankets, make-up, dishes, toys, and appliances, are distributed to residents in need. We partnered with the Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management, the City of Annapolis, and our member agencies to get these items in the hands and homes of 938 individuals and 338 households.



Healthy Living Initiative – We distributed over 630,000 pounds of fresh produce to 22,870 individuals and 8,610 households through our Pop-Up Produce Pantries to try and combat food deserts (areas with limited to no access to fresh produce) in Anne Arundel County. We partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmers to Families Food Box program to receive and distribute over 500 boxes of fresh produce weekly to Anne Arundel County’s Department of Aging Produce Pop-Up for seniors and people living with disabilities. We also partnered with Bike Advocates for Annapolis and Anne Arundel County to give away bicycles to youth to encourage exercise and bike helmets to teach bike safety.



Medical Equipment Loan Program – Through referrals from the Department of Aging, Department of Social Services, and other agencies, we loaned medical equipment free of charge including but not limited to wheelchairs, transfer chairs, electric scooters, walkers, and more to 114 individuals.



Holiday Assistance - With support from the Woodland Beach Fire Department, donations from local businesses and county residents, we provided 1,900 families with holiday food baskets and 20,000 youth with gifts.

AWARDS

2019 Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit of the Year

The Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce recognized AACFB as the Nonprofit of the Year at their 2019 Business Hall of Fame Dinner in Annapolis, MD. The award is presented annually to an Anne Arundel County nonprofit for demonstrating strong efforts to successfully pursue its mission and improve the quality of life in Anne Arundel County, as well as show superior commitment to working in close partnership with the business community over the past five years. We appreciate the recognition and the countless business partners throughout Anne Arundel County who make our mission possible.



2019 IMPACT 100 Greater Chesapeake Grant Recipient

IMPACT 100 Greater Chesapeake funds projects with a high potential for community impact. AACFB was selected as the 2019 IMPACT 100 recipient for the \$80,000 grant for a new refrigerated truck and USDA sealable storage containers to protect donated food. Grant funding comes from member contributions of \$1,000 per member with the goal of 100 women per year. Each IMPACT member votes to select the funded projects. We are grateful to these generous women for supporting the new truck and storage containers and for seeing the importance of these critical resources.



FY20 BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF TEAM

Thank you to our dedicated Board of Directors for all of the ways they contribute to support the organization and Anne Arundel County.

Board of Directors

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Vice President
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Pam Harrison, Vice Chair
Realtor
RE/MAX Executive
President, Anne Arundel County Association of Realtors

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Angel Gorski, Volunteer Coordinator

Mary Thomas, Food Drive Coordinator

Juls Jacobs-Kaczmarek, Bookkeeper

Lois Sewall, CPA

MD Department of Corrections Work Release Program



While we face a generational crisis due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, which has resulted in a massive surge in food demand, the AACFB staff has stepped up their efforts to overcome this challenge. They have worked tirelessly to support the needs of food and other necessities of suffering families in our community. We are eternally grateful to their dedication and hard work as they continue to operate as front-line workers in this fight against the Pandemic.

– Bappa Pal, Chair
Board of Directors

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

Donate Online

Visit us at aafoodbank.org/make-a-difference to make a credit card donation online. It's fast, easy, and secure.

Donate by Mail

Mail a check to AACFB, P.O. Box 650, Crownsville, MD 21032.

Monthly Giving

A recurring gift is a great way to offer ongoing support. Go to aafoodbank.org/make-a-difference and choose a monthly gift when prompted.

Mobile Giving

Text "FOOD" to 4144.

Workplace Giving

Contact your employer's HR department for details for workplace giving and/or matching gifts.

Planned Giving

You can ensure access to healthy food for Anne Arundel County residents by naming AACFB in your will or insurance policy.

Donor Advised Funds

Contact the foundation where your DAF is and give them the AACFB tax id: 52-1660473



living & giving
CLOSE TO HOME



The Maryland Charity Campaign is for employees of the State of Maryland.
Our Number: **521660473**



The Combined Federal Campaign in the Chesapeake Bay and the National Capital areas. This is for employees of the federal government.
Our Number **443811858**



The United Way of Central Maryland Workplace Giving campaign provides paycheck reduction giving for various private companies throughout the region.
Our Number: **1858**





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@aafoodbank | #aahungerpandemic

