

Letters: Generous response sought as annual food drive starts March 6

Letters to the Editor

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Have you ever had to wonder where you will get your next meal; looked in your cupboards to find nothing there or chose to pay your bills rather than purchase food?

Thankfully, this is something most of us do not experience.

But for more than 456,000 Marylanders it is their everyday reality.

The mission of the Maryland Food Bank is to lead the movement to end hunger in the Maryland.

It is a bold goal that requires the help and generosity of others so that no one has to go without. Our commitment is to improve the lives of Marylanders by providing what they need when they have difficulty doing so for themselves. It requires a collective effort and the support of caring Marylanders throughout our communities.

The 2010 Harvest for the Hungry food drive is beginning and we are asking for the public's help to make this year a success.

In recent weeks, the Maryland Food Bank, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, Safeway and Coldwell Banker have been distributing plastic grocery bags to homes and businesses throughout the state.

Marylanders are asked to fill the bags with nonperishable canned food items and leave them at their mailboxes.

The U.S. Postal Service's letter carriers and Girl Scouts will pick the bags up from March 6-13. It's easy and convenient so that more people will be involved in the fight against hunger.

Additionally, the public can also drop off bags of food at their local post office, Safeway store or Coldwell Banker.

The food will then be delivered to the Maryland Food Bank and our partners all over the state so that more food can get to more Marylanders in need.

This year is particularly important because we have experienced a tremendous increase in the demand for food from people and families who are facing tough times.

Many of those turning to food pantries and soup kitchens were considered members of the middle class just last year, but because of a job loss or health issues, for the first time in their lives they are in need of help.

It doesn't take much to help -- a jar of peanut butter, a can of green beans or soup from you could ease the burden of one of your neighbors and the difficult situation they find themselves in at this time.

For information, go to www.mdfoodbank.org/harvest.

Deborah Flateman, chief executive officer

Maryland Food Bank