



MARYLAND FOOD BANK

UNTIL HUNGER ENDS.

Mission: *To lead the movement and nurture the belief that together we can improve the lives of Marylanders by ending hunger.*

2010 Fact Sheet

Who We Are and What We Do

- The Maryland Food Bank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network.
- The Maryland Food Bank serves all of Maryland except Prince George's and Montgomery counties, which are served by a sister food bank.
- We operate an 87,000-square-foot warehouse in Baltimore and a 12,500-square-foot facility in Salisbury.
- We solicit food donations from manufacturers, growers, retailers, wholesalers and individuals.
- Food is distributed to the hungry through our network of more than 800 soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and other community food providers across the state.
- In FY 2009, we distributed 18.6 million pounds of food - a 27 percent increase from the previous fiscal year.
- We have seen an increase in demand for our service between 30 – 50 percent, many of whom were considered middle class before the economic recession took hold.

Who Benefits From Our Work

The faces of hunger will surprise you. While the homeless continue to be the most visible, many who need food assistance now are families, the elderly, and the working poor. Low-wage jobs and increased cost of living mean that many of our neighbors must decide between feeding their families or paying rent, utility or medical bills.

- 455,601 Marylanders are currently living at or below the federal poverty level; 346,876 of those Marylanders live in our service area.
- 31 percent of those living in poverty are children.
- The fastest growing segment of those in need work full-time.
- 53,823 seniors and 134,890 children are living below the federal poverty level in Maryland, with 103,461 children and 42,275 senior citizens in our service area.

Our Programs

- **SNAP Outreach.** SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) are under-utilized among senior citizens. The Maryland Food Bank conducts outreach to seniors in Baltimore City to inform them of the federal benefits they are eligible for but may not be receiving and take them step-by-step through the process of applying for SNAP benefits.
- **Pantry on the Go Programs.** Pantry on the Go delivers bulk loads of food, both fresh and non-perishable, to mostly rural areas of the state where access to food assistance is more difficult.
- **Second Helping.** The Maryland Food Bank works with Baltimore area restaurants, caterers, and institutions to gather prepared foods. Ready-to-eat meals are collected five days a week and distributed directly to soup kitchens and food pantries at no cost.
- **Kids Cafe.** The Maryland Food Bank provides snacks and meals to after-school programs that serve low-income children. These programs give children consistent access to healthy food in a safe, familiar setting.
- **Backpack Program.** Children eligible for free or reduced school lunches are provided with backpacks filled with food on Fridays to take home and share with family over the weekend.
- **School Pantry.** Parents of low-income students are engaged in volunteering at their children's schools and are offered access to school-operated food pantries.
- **Summer Food Service.** This important initiative addresses child hunger in the summer when children no longer receive school breakfasts and lunches.
- **Nutrition Education.** Maryland Food Bank partners with USDA and the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension to conduct nutrition education and food safety classes and demonstrations to help low-income families stretch their food dollars and improve their diets.
- **Community Kitchen** (coming soon!) Donated food will be prepared, quick-frozen and packaged for distribution to our network of food providers. The program will be managed by a professional chef and trainees, who will be educated in nutrition and proper food handling, so they can find jobs in the food service field later.

Get Involved

- **Make a Financial Gift.** One dollar can provide more than three pounds worth of food!
- **Volunteer.** Call the Maryland Food Bank to set up a time to work in our warehouse. Bring a team from your office, neighborhood, or professional association.
- **Advocate.** Spread the word about hunger in Maryland and how we can come together to end it.
- **Donate.** Give online at mdfoodbank.org, mail a check to the address below, or call 410-737-8282 ext. 221 to pay by credit card or set up an electronic funds transfer process.

To Volunteer: Call 410-737-8282 ext. 232 to schedule a session.

To Advocate: Call 410-737-8282 ext. 215 to learn about our public policy initiatives.



Maryland Food Bank
2200 Halethorpe Farms Road
Baltimore, MD 21227
(P):410-737-8282 (F):410-536-0438
www.mdfoodbank.org

