END HUNGER IN CALVERT COUNTY

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Our mission is to end hunger in Calvert County through a growing network of people helping others become self-sufficient.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

This past year was one to remember! In collaboration with our many partners, we provided real life change to a growing number of needy Calvert County residents. Among our many accomplishments, we:

- Distributed over **590,000** pounds of food to our local food pantries, thanks to the overwhelming support of our community.
- Formed partnerships with local farms, harvesting over **115,000** pounds of healthy "live" food for the hungry.
- Served **10,000** individuals who use our local food pantries. Among these individuals, 40% are children.
- Celebrated over **500** cyclists who participated in our 4th Annual Bike Ride to End Hunger. In addition to raising awareness, this event generated over $20,000.
- Provided **2,350** local resource guides for distribution by the End Hunger partner pantries.
- Hosted FoodStock '12, distributing over **54,000** pounds of food to more than **213** families, free of charge.
- Received a Maryland State Senate bond to begin our culinary job-training program.
- Provided life skills training for food pantry clients on topics such as healthy cooking, smart shopping, energy efficiency, and understanding credit reports.
- Through grant funding, provided free tax help for low income families. We are the only FREE help in Calvert County for families.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY, THE HEART OF END HUNGER

Real life change is happening.

At the heart of End Hunger In Calvert County (EHCC) is a program designed to help high potential food pantry clients cross over from dependency to self-sufficiency. Often these clients are single parents who are caught in a cycle of not being able to quite make it on their own. However, with a little help from our many partners to meet needs such as higher education, skills development, and access to job interviews, transportation, and childcare, they can actually achieve self-sufficiency and become highly productive, valued members of our community.

EHCC is proud to report that our 2012 candidates made real progress in their lives, not just moving closer to the goal of self-sufficiency, but achieving it.

Last fall, in partnership with the JATC IBEW Local 26 Electricians Union and the Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Council, End Hunger In Calvert County launched an Electrical Training Program. The course serves as a job-training program to help get unemployed or underemployed Calvert County residents back to work.

The 15-week course was a combination of classroom lectures as well as hands-on practicums. Students received 90 hours of training experience and became certified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements, CPR and basic first aid.

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Thanks to the program, 24 people who were once unemployed or underemployed are now working full time and earning top dollar with benefits through the Local 26 Electricians Union. In addition, graduates are part of the union's residential program and are qualified for above entry-level positions with electrical companies. Many have begun pursuing a career with the union's apprenticeship program.

POWERFUL PARTNERS

EHCC Awarded Compassionate Marylander
March 2012: End Hunger In Calvert County's chairman Rev. Robert P. Hahn was recognized as Compassionate Marylander by Governor Martin O'Malley and CareFirst Blue Cross Blue Shield. Rev. Hahn received the award for his leadership contributions that go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure neighbors in need are taken care of.

EHCC Receives William Donald Schaefer Helping People Award
May 2012: End Hunger In Calvert County received the inaugural William Donald Schaefer Award by Comptroller Peter Franchot. The award was presented in recognition of End Hunger In Calvert County's steadfast devotion to helping those in need in the community and its unparalleled commitment to creating permanent solutions to help move individuals from dependency to self-sufficiency.

EHCC Unites Calvert Food Pantries
End Hunger In Calvert County is spearheading a movement to unite Calvert County food pantries. In an effort to better serve food pantry clients and their families in addition to better assessing the county's need, local pantries have begun to share data and create more in depth client profiles.

EHCC Partners with Maryland Food Bank and Farming 4 Hunger
End Hunger In Calvert County partnered with The Maryland Food Bank and Farming for Hunger to host FoodStock '12. During the event, over 59,000 pounds of food were distributed to 1,700 individuals in less than two hours. Individuals received 35 pounds of fresh produce, 25 to 30 pounds of dry goods and a 10-pound bag of potatoes. All the food was provided by the Maryland Food Bank and fresh produce came from Farming 4 Hunger.

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

OUR GOALS:

- Launch a Culinary School to serve as jobs training program for unemployed and underemployed individuals.
- Develop creative strategies for engaging at least 50 EHCC volunteers on an ongoing basis.
- Turn the tide of childhood hunger in Calvert County by removing barriers to services and providing quality food and educational opportunities that will allow parents to feed their children nutritional meals.

EHCC's success is our community's success --- our partnerships are invaluable --- the lives we are changing are real. And together, we'll accomplish what we set out to do – to end hunger in Calvert County. Together we can.