



**June 9, 2017**

**Dear Anne Arundel County Food Bank Staff,**

Everything happens at the right time. Initially when we applied for the Anne Arundel County Food Bank the application was delayed. However, in December of 2016 when we were finally approved this partnership has been nothing but a blessing! Our program is a recreational clubhouse for teens 12-17 in Anne Arundel County. We provide recovery support for youth that identify with substance abuse and negative behavior patterns.

We have a recreational area and our ping pong table had broken from years of use. When Susan came for our site visit, she asked if we needed a ping pong table, I didn't even have to ask and it was provided! We also received bikes to give to our families, an arcade basket ball game, pin ball game and various toys to enhance our program area. We've also been able to collect some Christmas decorations and cards, and Halloween decorations that we will use for our holiday parties coming up.

As a nonprofit that is grant funded, each year funds are cut and we face deficits in certain areas. Our food expense for the meals we provide our youth and families daily were too high and had to be cut. Receiving food for our meals/soup kitchen has helped us offset the costs significantly!

When we receive the donated food for the pantry and notified our parents they have been extremely grateful. Some didn't know that they were eligible to receive food assistance and now thank us every day for what we do for them, their children and the community. Our community also has a huge homeless population, some of which we feed weekly, so all of the food received goes to good use. Thank you all for helping us help the community and reduce our operating costs.

To the staff of the Anne Arundel County Food and Resource Bank thank you all that you do for the community and agencies you serve.

Best Regards,

Meleny Thomas, Director  
CCYD Rediscovering Me Clubhouse

CHESAPEAKE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL  
HOLLYWOOD DINER  
RECONNECTING YOUTH  
AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS  
JFI PROJECT

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**Lifting Young Lives**