AACFB Gets 15 Year Lease - New Roof Funding

The AACFB has been at its current location on the old Crownsville State Hospital grounds since 2004. The building, formerly the central kitchen for the hospital, is centrally located in the county with easy access for all our member agencies. The building has over 30,000 square feet of space – and desperately needed a new roof. Since 2004, when AACFB moved into this location, AACFB has had numerous patch jobs, but the cost to replace the roof was prohibitive, and without a long-term lease, AACFB could not commit to such a large project.

Over the years there has been talk of the grounds being sold, and the AACFB was never sure how long they could stay at this location. In FY19, AACFB was able to secure a 15-year lease for the current location, as Anne Arundel County will be taking over the property and has no plans to sell it.

AACFB Executive Director Susan Thomas, and the AACFB Board (special thanks to Kathy O’Donovan) went to Annapolis to get backing for a Capital Bond to help pay to replace the roof. They were able to get Sen. Ed Reilly and Del. Heather Bagnall to sponsor the bond, and after hearings before various General Assembly committees, the AACFB was approved for the Bond. With the help from a generous benefactor, and AACFB fundraising efforts, AACFB then had the full amount necessary to replace the entire roof.

Centimark will be working on the roof in September 2019, and the AACFB will be able to continue helping Anne Arundel County residents in need from the Crownsville location in a safe – and dry – environment.

Every Food Drive Counts

The Kids Helping Kids Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive may be the largest single food drive for the AACFB each year, but we are fortunate to benefit from many little food drives throughout the year. Companies, civic groups, neighborhoods and many others, will collect food to donate to AACFB, many times they just show up with their wonderful donations!

In FY19, the Anne Arundel County Food Bank received 60,320 pounds of food from miscellaneous food drives. Some of the groups that donated include the USPS Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, Maryland LIVELI, Heritage Harbour, Ginger Cove, AAMC Auxiliary, the Pasadena Senior Center, Feds Feeding Families, Wegmans Fill a Bus, and many more.

But “in kind” donations, delivered to AACFB in FY19, totaled 42,185 pounds! From food collected by children in their neighborhood, to food donation dropped off by anonymous donors, the AACFB was the fortunate recipient of kind hearts and giving spirits. It is because of people like this that the AACFB is able to help the less fortunate in our county.

“If a person needs food, they need everything.” - Bruce Michalec
**Holiday Sharing**

First Lady Yumi Hogan joined the Anne Arundel County Food Bank to distribute holiday gifts to children and families at Sarah’s House and Meade Village Head Start over the holidays during FY19. Over 100 gifts were provided by the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. The Anne Arundel County Food Bank was able to provide these gifts through the generous support of Target and the Woodland Beach Volunteer Fire Department Toy Drive.

The holiday season is a time to join together with loved ones and reflect on our many blessings, as well as share joy with fellow Marylanders,” said First Lady Yumi Hogan. “We are grateful for the commitment of the Anne Arundel County Food Bank to help meet the needs of our children this season through this gift distribution, and recognize the important work of organizations like Sarah’s House and the Meade Village Head Start to provide essential services to Maryland families throughout the year.”

This was the AA County Food Bank’s first of several events throughout our county. In FY18, over 13,000 children were assisted and in FY19, AACFB was able to assist 15,000 children. A special thank you to Yumi Hogan for helping distribute these gifts, and to Target and the Woodland Beach Fire Department for their continued support to make these efforts possible! THANK YOU!!!

**Another New Program at AACFB**

Caseworkers from the Anne Arundel County Health Department’s Healthy Start Program for pregnant women, new mothers, and babies came to tour the AACFB in FY19. While touring, it was mentioned that new mothers were not making the necessary immunization appointments because they did not have car seats. The caseworkers also mentioned that they found babies sleeping in bed with parents and were looking for resources. Fortunately, through our Retail Rescue Partners, AACFB receives baby equipment.

A new program was formed right then and there. This new program will help Healthy Start reach low-income parents in need of infant necessities. Healthy Start conducts home visits and assesses needs and then picks up these items from AACFB. Like all AACFB services, these are provided free.

**Federal Furlough Assistance**

The United States partial government shutdown, which began on Dec. 22, 2018 and ended 35 days later with a short-term funding bill, was the longest in U.S. history.

With Anne Arundel County being home to many federal employees, AACFB took action. AACFB creating a Federal Furlough Assistance Program to help not just federal employees, but federal contractors as well. AACFB provided those who were affected by the government shutdown with food, toiletries, household goods and more.

AACFB continued the Federal Furlough Assistance Program until everyone was back to work and paid. During the shutdown, AACFB saw a 25% to 33% increase in people seeking help at our pantries.

**Expanding Our Programs**

Our member agencies spoke - and AACFB listened.

In FY19, AACFB expanded their pantry program to include toiletries and household cleaning products which previously were set aside for our shelters and halfway houses. All agencies can now receive items such as shampoo, deodorant, detergent, dish liquid, and soap when they pick up their regular monthly allotment of food.

With the addition of these items to our pantries, more people in Anne Arundel County will now have access to basic toiletries that may have been out of reach financially.
FY19 Impact Report

During FY19, the AACFB supplied food and basic necessities to 68 pantries, 8 soup kitchens, 12 shelters, 41 schools with backpack programs, 11 baby pantries, 8 senior pantries, 4 pet pantries, 13 clothing pantries, and 1 furniture program throughout Anne Arundel County. We also support seasonal programs such as winter relief, free community events and dinners for those in need, free summer camps and summer programs to underprivileged children as well as participating annually in Anne Arundel County Homeless Resource Day. In FY19 the AACFB distributed almost $4 million dollars worth of food and basic necessities which includes over 2.6 million pounds to our member agencies (pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.).

The AACFB uses a core set of programs to carry out our mission. These programs may vary based on the needs of those we serve. In FY19 our services included:

- **Pantry Distribution Program** - Our pantries provide bags of food for residents in need in Anne Arundel County. These bags include frozen meats, breads, pastries, produce, perishable, donated canned, dry and government foods. In addition all pantries may distribute toiletries and cleaning supplies. In FY19 this program assisted 62,170 households (HH).

- **On-Site Feeding Program** - The Anne Arundel County Food Bank works with the Department of Human Resources to make sure that congregate feeding sites (shelters, soup kitchens) always have a hot meal to offer. Our onsite feeding programs served approximately 1.3 million nutritious meals to homeless and hungry citizens in our county.

- **Baby Pantry** – After Food Link (baby pantry) shut their doors in May 2018, the AACFB began to open baby pantries to ensure families with infants and toddlers had a resource for continuum of services. In FY19 this program assisted 1,000 households, or 2,711 individuals.

- **Senior Pantries** – 43% of all seniors live below the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) threshold (survival threshold). This program was started this past year to help families whose needs go beyond standard food pantry items thereby ensuring that seniors and those with diet constraints are not left at risk of hunger or malnutrition, which could increase poor health.

- **Professional Medical Equipment** - Distribution of medical equipment including but not limited to wheel chairs, transfer chairs, electric scooters, walkers, and more to clients free of charge through referrals by Department of Aging, Department of Social Services and other service oriented agencies. The AACFB Loaned medical equipment to 114 individuals this past year.

- **Pet Pantry** - 62% 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. With this in mind, this past year we opened several pet pantries throughout Anne Arundel County. Donations to support this program come from local stores and enabled us to assist around 1,000 pet families as well as local animal shelters with items valued at almost $88,000.

- **Back Pack Buddies** – The AACFB works alongside the Anne Arundel County Public School System and the local churches to provide a backpack containing 4 meals and snacks to go home with the most impoverished and at risk children on the FARMS system (Free and Reduced Meal System). This not only takes the stress off of the parent that is working but also provides the child with a sense of security and proper nourishment. In FY19 the back pack buddies program at the AACFB served almost 6,400 students at 41 schools throughout our county.

- **Holidays Assistance** - With support from the Woodland Beach Fire Department as well as donations from local businesses and county residents we were able to assist 1,500 families with holiday baskets of food and 15,000 youth with gifts.

- **Pop-Up Produce Pantries** – Help to combat food deserts in AA County providing almost 300,000 pounds of produce in FY19. With the addition of a second refrigeration unit this program is projected to increase dramatically in FY20.

- **Pop-Up Essential Pantry** – Are pantry distributions, of nonfood basic necessities that go to our county’s most impoverished areas. These items include but are not limited to blankets, make-up, dishes, toys, and appliances. In FY19 The AACFB worked with the Office of Emergency Management, City of Annapolis, as well as our member agencies to get these items in the hands of those in need.

The AACFB has worked to expand on our Healthy Living Initiative. Distributing 300,000 pounds of produce and assisting 6,400 students with healthy foods through the Backpack Buddies Program in FY19 the AACFB also distributed over 200 bikes to encourage exercise among our youth. A new partnership was developed with Bike AAA to teach bike safety to these bike recipients and help with distribution.
LOOKING FORWARD TO FY20

The Anne Arundel County Food Bank (AACFB) looks forward to a new fiscal year as we jump into our Back to School events and gear up for our Backpack Buddies program. Soon the holidays start to roll around and we will be helping with holiday meals, and gifts - we never stop.

We are able to do what we do, because of the help we receive from you.

Want to support AACFB and our mission? We are a listed charity with Amazon Smile. Online donations can be made on our website—www.aafoodbank.org.

96 cents out of every dollar donated to AACFB goes to help those in need in Anne Arundel County.

Hunger Hurts. Thank you for supporting the AACFB!