



CALENDAR YEAR 2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

BLESSED TO HELP, INC. (BTHI), a non-profit organization located in Prince Georges County, Maryland. BTHI was founded in 2020 by six Fort Washington Baptist Church (FWBC) members and one community member under the leadership of Darin Poullard, Pastor. As the group met and proceeded, we identified a lack of adequate food supply for the residents of Fort Washington and the greater Prince Georges County area. COVID-19 caused the residents of Fort Washington to experience “food gaps.” Many families were left with gaps in meals because they do not have nutritious food. Families in our community lost financial resources, and many relied on programs that COVID -19 had impacted.

Some of the programs that families depended on to provide daily nutrition were closed. Other vital programs had been forced to reduce their services. It was difficult to predict economic stability in those uncertain times and when or if a return to “previously normal” would occur. The negative impact of program closures coupled with unemployment and other factors decimating family resources further complicates the picture.

Before the pandemic, Prince Georges County had identified 13.5% of the children in the County with food security issues (PG Health Zone.org). According to the Capital Area Food Bank figures, the County had 138,000 people or 16 percent of the population struggling to get food in 2019 (Washington Informer, May 10, 2017).

Blessed to Help’s mission is to eradicate hunger and promote literacy in Prince George’s County. For the past three years, BTH has been distributing food in PGC on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. Over this time the number of families coming to get food has increased each year. BTH purchases food for distribution. It has also been the beneficiary of generous donations of food from a local grocer. We are committed to helping as many people as possible.

Board of Directors-Officers

Judie Johnson, President	Wyndetta Taylor, 1st Vice President	Doris McMillon, 2nd Vice President	Mi-Reta Oburota, Treasurer
Anthony Jones, Correspondence Secretary		Lorna Washington, Recording Secretary	

Board of Directors-Members

James Clarke, Fundraising Committee Chair	Doretha Russell, Literacy Committee Chair		
Tayrn Gude	Cheryl Henson- Everson	Zaneta Walthour	

Our Partners

Fort Washington Baptist Church and Members, Carla Cash (Great Expectations Outreach Ministry), Everett Hellmuth (President of Passport Dealerships), District 7 Precinct, Destiny International Christian Center Food Recovery Program, Wellpoint Insurance Company, and the Prince George's County Council.

Our Accomplishments

Blessed to Help, Inc. was been in operation since 2020. We have demonstrated success by providing food for fifty (50) to seventy-five (75) families on a weekly/biweekly basis. We conducted a "How we are doing?" surveys in July of 2021 and October of 2022. The overall response was that we are doing a good job, and the community is very satisfied with what we are doing. See the 2022 survey below for more details.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SURVEY OCTOBER 2022

QUESTION: HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU HAVE IN YOUR FAMILY?

Average Family Size 3.54 People

Please let us know how we're doing. How satisfied are you with.....

QUESTION	DESCRIPTOR RATING FOR 2022	2021 RESULTS
Our Hours of Operation	3.92	3.63
The Amount of Food You Got	3.85	3.63
How Much Protein You Got (Meat, Fish, Chicken, Eggs, Cheese)	3.73	3.53
How Much Fresh Fruit And Vegetables You Got	3.81	3.55
The Amount Of Canned , Frozen or Other Ready-To-Eat Food You Got	3.81	3.55
How Long The Food Stays Good Before It Goes Bad	3.65	3.62

(Not everyone answered all items)

Note: Scale Headings Range from 1 (Very Unsatisfied) to 4 (Very Satisfied)

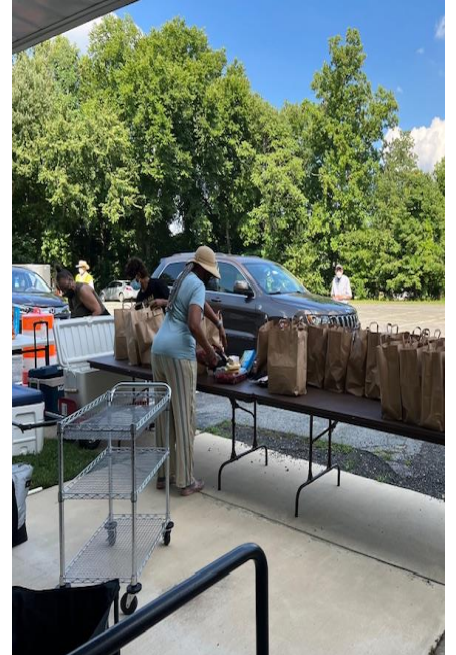
Food Distributions

Groceries were distributed on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month. Every bag consisted of items to feed a family of four. Seventy bags of food were prepared for the car line for every distribution. We have also been able to support giving bags of groceries on an as needed basis. Our meats were typically purchased from Costco or Aldi by Board Members or Volunteers. Pantry items and supplies were typically purchased from Aldi, Sam's Club, or Weis Market by Board Members or Volunteers. Our bags contained approximately 3-5 pounds of meat, one box of cereal or other breakfast items, one starch or other side items, and a variety of fresh produce, eggs, and dairy products donated via the partnership with Destiny International Christian Center Food Recovery Program.

Our Food Pantry



OUR DEVOTED VOLUNTEERS WORKING HARD FOR THE COMMUNITY



Other Activities

- ✦ **Annual Coat Drive** in partnership with District VII Police Station and FWBC in January 2023. Donations were received from FWBC members.
- ✦ **1st Annual Easter Basket Assembly** on April 1, 2023 in partnership with FWBC for the National Center for Children and Families in Washington, DC. Baskets and accessories were provided by FWBC. Treats and gifts were donated by FWBC members
- ✦ **Partnered with FWBC to host 4 2023 Red Cross Blood Drives** - February 27th, May 12th, July 20th, and September 26th. Collected a total of 70 units of blood, which could potentially help to saves 210 lives.
- ✦ **Annual Back to School Supplies Drive** in partnership with Greater Expectations Outreach Ministry in August 2023. Collected book bags, notebook paper, composition books, binders, folders, bottles of glue, and pencils.
- ✦ **Trunk or Treat.** BTH along with other community organizations at the District VII Police Station on October 30, 2023 with over 200 people in attendance.
- ✦ **November Food Drive with FWBC.** November - FWBC Thanksgiving Food Drive/ Thanksgiving Basket Distributed Turkeys and non-perishable side items to 110 families



New Initiatives

- 1. BTHI/FWBC and Colin Powell Academy are partnering to implement after-school activities promoting reading literacy and other life skills. Twenty-two volunteers have signed up to be a part of this initiative and are in the process of completing the mandatory Prince George's School Board's Safety Requirements. This is an exciting opportunity for members of FWBC and others in the community to make a tangible difference in the lives of the children in our community. Student literacy rates have dipped since the onset of the pandemic. By the grace of God, we can help to change this trajectory and sow into the lives of our young people.**
- 2. Van Fundraising Campaign- Through a GoFundMe Campaign, Popcorn Popup, and donations from Family and Friends we have raised close to \$9000 towards the purchasing of a van. As we expand our efforts into partnering with schools in the community to advance literacy, a van is needed to enhance outreach capability in the community. We are committed to helping as many people as possible. We are also committed to being good stewards of all funds donated in order to be impactful to the community. All the designated donations will go towards helping to meet our transportation needs.**

Summary

BTH has been faithful in its mission of blessing and providing healthy food to the Fort Washington community throughout the year and meeting the needs of the community as they arise.

TO OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

The success of our mission to assist the community shows as a direct reflection of the kind of person you are — exceptionally dedicated to possibility and willing to do what it takes to realize a vision. We would like to personally thank you for your commitment to our shared cause. Our goal was to help eradicate hunger by establishing a food pantry that provided regular nutritious choices in the hands of our community on a regular basis. Without your support and enthusiasm, none of this would be happening at such a quick pace.

Thank you, once more, and we very much look forward to working with you again for the benefit of our community and beyond.