



**Milton Community Food Pantry**  
**P.O. Box 84**  
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## **WHO WE ARE**

The Milton Community Food Pantry is an independent 501(c)(3) charity started in June 2014. The mission of the MCFP is to combat hunger in the Milton area. The Pantry is run entirely by volunteers and depends on donations from individuals and organizations. The MCFP distributes fresh and non-perishable food items on the first and third Monday of the month. No one is turned away!

## **OUR IMPACT IN 2023**

- 9695 individuals were served (60% adults, 40% children)
- Food was provided for 116,000 meals
- 116,185 pounds of fresh food was rescued and distributed
- \$37,618.00 worth of non-perishable food items were donated

## **WHAT HUNGER LOOKS LIKE IN DELAWARE**

According to Feeding America, 93,000 people are facing hunger in Delaware! That's

- 1 in 10 people
- 1 in 7 children
- 1 in 15 seniors

We have personally seen a 55% increase in the number of families served this year!

## **TOWNS SERVED IN 2023**

<b>Milton</b>	<b>Georgetown</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>Ellendale</b>
<b>Milford</b>	<b>Harbeson</b>
<b>Lewes</b>	<b>Millsboro</b>
<b>Laurel</b>	<b>Greenwood</b>
<b>Magnolia</b>	<b>Frederica</b>
<b>Dover</b>	<b>Harrington</b>
<b>Houston</b>	<b>Dagsboro</b>
<b>Seaford</b>	<b>Camden</b>
<b>Felton</b>	<b>Selbyville</b>
<b>Delmar</b>	<b>Bridgeville</b>
<b>Rehoboth Beach</b>	

## Milton Community Food Pantry 2023 End of Year Report

2023 has been a banner year for the MCFP! Our long term goal of a dedicated food pantry has been achieved! We have completed construction of a modern, state-of-the-art Distribution Center on our property. This new facility allows us to store large quantities of perishable and non-perishable food items as well as pre-pack and distribute food from one location in a safe and efficient manner for our clients and volunteers.

With the help of a small, but wonderful core of volunteers and a very supportive board of directors, we have been able to accomplish the following in 2023:

- We have begun distributing food from our new location and will soon be going to weekly distributions.
- The Pantry will have paid off all its debt for the Distribution Center by the end of the first quarter, 2024.
- We have continued to implement a drive-through model of distribution that has proven efficient and safe for our clients and volunteers.
- We have been able to purchase and provide food for our clients in spite of the rising cost of food.
- We continue to partner with other organizations including the "Teach a Person to Fish Society", the St. Andrew's Society and the Historic Lewes Farmers Market to expand the variety of fresh produce we can provide.
- The "Teach a Person to Fish Society" has obtained a grant to build two 10 X 30' raised vegetable gardens on our property to help provide additional organic produce for our clients.
- Our food rescue program has increased 164% from the previous year, thereby increasing the amount of fresh produce given to our clients while reducing food waste.
- We have initiated a partnership with the Food Bank of Delaware to become a Hunger Relief Partner, enabling us to order food and use the many resources they provide.
- We continue to partner with the Delaware "Unite Us" platform to accept referrals for people facing food insecurity.
- We have continued to build a strong relationship with many Delaware based foundations/organizations.
- Once again, we had a record level of funding this year, including individual, corporate, foundation and government grants and donations.
- The Pantry has been featured in local newspapers and TV stations including WRDE TV, BOC and 47 ABC.
- Local political figures such as Senator Tom Carper, Cindy Axne, a Senior Advisor to the USDA, State Representative Stell Parker Selby, Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester, and Mayor Collier have demonstrated support for the MCFP.
- Some organizations have funded the Pantry for a fifth funding cycle, understanding the important work we do.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for a wonderful and successful year! This includes all of our donors (individuals, businesses/corporations, community organizations, churches, communities and foundations) without whom we could not operate and purchase food; the amazing donors who contributed to the cost of the Distribution Center (Matt Haley Trust, Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Congregations, Perdue Foundation, Chichester DuPont Foundation and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development); the volunteers who give so much of themselves to fulfill our mission; and the Board of Directors without whose support the Pantry could not succeed. I would also like to thank Lighthouse Construction, Inc. for their role in the construction of the Distribution Center. Lastly, I would like to thank Pastor Tim and the community of the Water's Edge Church for so generously giving the Pantry a home base for the past 2 years. None of this would be possible without all of you!

Although 2023 has been an amazingly successful year for the MCFP, we continue to need your support. The Pantry has seen a 75% increase in the number of clients served in January 2024 when compared to January 2023! With inflation and the expiration of the pandemic-era programs, we expect to see this need for our services continue. Although our food rescue efforts have increased significantly, food costs continue to rise and our donations of fresh produce have discontinued for the winter months. In addition to the purchasing of food, the MCFP continues to need funds for operations and capital improvement projects, such as the paving of our driveway, fencing and a new roof for our administration building. With your ongoing support, we will continue to serve those who need us. Please consider helping us if you can, either through a direct donation or by volunteering your services. June 2024 will be the MCFP's 10th anniversary! Look for upcoming information on our 10th anniversary celebration.

In closing, my second term as President of the MCFP has come to an end. It has been an amazing ride! The new President of the MCFP is Lawrence Bivens. Please give him your support as he will do an amazing job!

*Donna Murawski, President Emeritus*

*Lawrence Bivens, Sr., MCFP President*