



Milton Community Food Pantry
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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 four Mondays of each month. No one is turned away!

OUR IMPACT IN 2024

- **17,580** individuals were served (60% adults, 40% children)
- Food was provided for **210,960** meals
- **174,523** pounds of fresh food was rescued and distributed
- **\$42,532.00** worth of non-perishable food items were donated

WHAT HUNGER LOOKS LIKE IN DELAWARE

According to Feeding America, 120,130 people are facing hunger in Delaware! That's

- **1 in 8** people
- **1 in 6** children
- **1 in 11** seniors

We have personally seen an 81% increase in the number of families served this year!

TOWNS SERVED IN 2024

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

Milton Community Food Pantry 2024 End of Year Report

2024 was a very productive year for the MCFP! Our modern, state-of-the-art Distribution Center on our property 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 wonderful, hardworking volunteers and a very supportive board of directors, we were able to accomplish the following in 2024:

- In February we began distributing food on the first four Mondays of each month. We divided the clients by their last names into two distribution groups - A through L and M through Z. We made this strategic adjustment because of the steady increase in the number of weekly clients.
- Also in February, the Pantry paid off all its debt for the Distribution Center. Our funds are now focused on operational expenses, which include our largest budgeted expense, food!
- We continue 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 built two 10 X 30' raised vegetable gardens on our property. Those gardens provided additional organic produce for our clients.
- Our food rescue program has increased 50% 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. In September, the Food Bank of Delaware changed their method of distributing food from no cost for any food to a 50% cost for most items. This change caused us to seek additional funding.
- We continue to partner with the Delaware "Unite Us" platform to accept referrals for people facing food insecurity.
- We continue to build strong relationships with many Delaware based foundations and organizations.
- Once again, we had a record level of funding in 2024, including individual, corporate, foundation and government grants and donations. These funds helped us to pave our driveway, pour a concrete pad for our dumpster, and upgrade our HVAC in the administration building.
- The Pantry has been featured in local newspapers and TV stations including WRDE TV, WBOC and 47 ABC.
- Local political figures such as Senator Tom Carper, 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 sixth funding cycle, understanding the important work we do.

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. We have continued our partnerships with these amazing donors: the Matt Haley Trust, the Lewes-Rehoboth Association of Congregations, the Perdue Foundation, the Chichester duPont Foundation, WSFS, the Red Wagon Calagione Family Foundation, Sussex County, the SoDel Cares Foundation, the Food Lion Charitable Foundation, the TJX Foundation, the Free Masons and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development. I especially want to thank our dedicated volunteers who give so much of themselves to fulfill our mission and the Board of Directors without whose support the Pantry could not succeed.

June 9, 2024 was the MCFP's 10th anniversary! To celebrate this milestone, we held our event, "A Taste of Milton," on September 28th. We invited 9 chefs and caterers to offer a small plate taste of their specialty foods. The sponsors helped to cover the cost of drinks, desserts and ice cream. Individuals and organizations donated 21 items for the silent auction. With these contributions and the help of our hardworking volunteers we were able to raise 35% more than projected.

Although 2024 was a very productive year for the MCFP, we continue to need your support. The Pantry saw an 81% increase in the number of clients served in 2024 as compared to 2023! We are not expecting to see this need for our services diminish. As we support our clients with food insecurities, the MCFP will continue to need funds for operations. With your ongoing support, we will be able to serve those who need us. Please consider helping us if you can, either through a direct donation or by volunteering your services.

Lawrence Bivens, Sr., MCFP President

Donna Murawski, President Emeritus