

## Hands That Feed: Feed St. Mary's "First" Start-Up Pantry

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**LEXINGTON PARK, Md.** - Elder Juanita Butler is a minister at Gospel Tabernacle of Prayer Church, AOCI in Clements, Maryland. She heads the Community Outreach Evangelism Ministry (CORE) and the Hands That Feed Ministry at the Church.

The "Hands That Feed Ministry" was born on May 11, 2020. It became a new pantry under Feed St. Mary's Food Bank on June 5, 2020.

In April, 2021 "The Hands That Feed Ministry" became a network partner with the Maryland Food Bank of Baltimore, Maryland. Its' mission is to ensure that no one goes hungry by providing emergency food assistance to those in the county who are in need of assistance. Nutritious food and necessities are provided that enable recipients to live a productive life with their needs being met.

The Hands That Feed Ministry distributes food to approximately 100 clients on a monthly basis. The distribution is done in two ways: 1} A drive by food giveaway is held on the third Saturday of each month from 11am to 1pm. Clients drive on to the church parking lot, pop up their trunk and are given the items they need, and 2} A community in the northern part of the county is selected and food is delivered to those who may not have transportation or are unable to get to the church.

The "Hands That Feed Ministry" has a core group and approximately 10 additional volunteers who serve compassionately by sacrificing their time to pick up food from Feed St. Mary's County warehouse, bag the items and make sure those who are in need receive what they need.

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