

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Paper goods—
toilet tissue
paper towels
disposable diapers

Jelly
1 lb. bags rice
Canned fruit

Pantry items may be delivered to Knox Presbyterian at 7416 Arlington Blvd. during the church office hours, 9-1 weekdays. Please call before you come. At 703 560-5288.

FURNITURE NEEDS

Beds with mattresses
Dressers
Dining tables and chairs
To donate furniture e-mail to fcsfurn@aol.com or call 703 237-2562.

Your financial donation is needed and always appreciated. It can be mailed to :
FCS
7416 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA
22042

Designate your donations to United Way #8908 or CFC #56071



FALLS CHURCH
COMMUNITY SERVICE
COUNCIL INC.

FCS News

Winter 2010

Thanksgiving Deliveries

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our annual Thanksgiving appeal.

Thanks to your generous help, we delivered Thanksgiving food to **129** households in Falls Church! Financial donations to the program paid for turkey gift certificates for every household and for supplemental food.

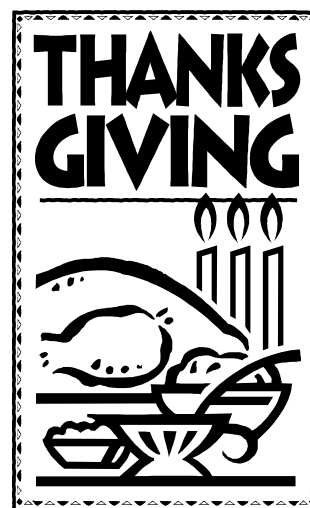
Many community groups and individuals contributed food to the pantry; the largest single donation being the 8,000 pounds of food donated through the Boy Scouts' Scouting for Food program. Many members of the community contributed time and energy by sorting and

packing food. More than 40 volunteers were responsible for delivering the food on Saturday, November 21st.

This year we have seen an increase in the need for food in our community. We have also seen an increase in donations. We could not have made this Thanksgiving effort without everyone's help.

I would also like to thank my faithful volunteers who made time during the holiday season to deliver food 6 days a week.

Sincerely,
Linda Rice-Johnston
FCS Emergency Food



FCS Fundraiser—Save the Date!

Jazz in June—the Falls Church Community Service Council's first ever community fundraiser to be held at the Spectrum building in downtown Falls Church. Mark your calendars for June 5, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and join us for food tasting, wine and music by the band "Stolen Moments". Look for your invitation in early May and support the neediest in our community.

***“All they asked
was that we
should continue
to remember the
poor, the very
thing I was eager
to do.”
Galatians 2:10***

Safe Haven

FCS is excited to announce our collaboration with Safe Haven, located at First Christian Church, 6165 Leesburg Pike. Each Tuesday and Thursday from December through March and each Thursday year round, First Christian hosts a “Safe Haven” for our homeless neighbors.

They provide:

- ◆ A breakfast meal from 9-10:30 am
 - ◆ A hot lunch meal from 12:00—2:00 pm
 - ◆ A warm, safe place to stay from 9 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - ◆ Fellowship
 - ◆ Medical help and counseling
- This program requires many volunteers.**

Here are ways individuals and/or church groups can help:

- ◆ Prepare a meal
- ◆ Serve breakfast or lunch
- ◆ Offer fellowship
- ◆ Set up for the day
- ◆ Wash dishes and clean up
- ◆ Wash linens
- ◆ Donate food and paper goods
- ◆ Pray for our homeless guests

Safe Haven critically needs:

White socks, men’s underwear, women’s underwear, winter coats, jeans, warm clothing, hygiene kits: wash cloth, razor, toothbrush, travel size soap, toothpaste, deodorant, powder. Want more information, want to help or donate? Call 703 532-8220 Email Karen@fccfc.org

Volunteer on the Telephone

The national financial crisis has had an impact on FCS. First, it has made it more difficult to raise our budget, and secondly, it has increased the work of our telephone coordinators.

Most of our requests are for financial help with rent and utilities, as well as food, with an increased

number of clients in the “middle age” bracket. Many of our clients are working low paying jobs, or dealing with a reduction of hours, illness, or disability. We are receiving a larger number of requests for financial aid and food, as the number of requests from new clients (people we have

not previously served), has tripled.

The telephone coordinators are volunteers who give one week monthly or bimonthly to answer the phone and keep our records. Should you have some free time and wish to serve your community, please give us a call at 703 237-2562.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As an early source of help to Falls Church area residents, FCS volunteer telephone coordinators authorize financial assistance for rent, utilities, and medical needs to those in need. In addition to acting as phone coordinators, (see article above), teams pick up and deliver donated furniture

on Saturdays. We need one or several people willing to deliver or to coordinate deliveries. The emergency food program can use volunteers to pick up donated bread at an area supermarket. A substantive support system includes county and city agencies as well as the FCS Board.

Not all of us can afford to donate to this effort, but we can offer our time. Volunteers are needed in all of these areas on a monthly, weekly, biweekly basis. If you can help, please email gmsnyder70@yahoo.com. Please consider being part of this safety net for area residents.



Message from Executive Director, Bill Hale

FCS continues to offer emergency assistance to hundreds of local families and individuals each month. Emergency assistance requests have increased and FCS is responding with food assistance, rent and utility payments and furniture assistance.

In my time as Director, I have been truly amazed at all of the assistance we are able to offer. We continue to partner with social

workers who make referrals to FCS telephone coordinators and we also continue to receive funding from both Falls Church City and Fairfax County.

We also continue to be blessed with an increase in financial support from many individuals and faith communities, and for this, we can all be grateful.

The challenge which FCS continues to face is an "identity crisis"!

Many people know what FCS stands for and what we do; many more have no idea. I believe FCS is one of the "best-kept secrets" in the Falls Church area.

We will continue with our efforts to make FCS better known and recognized, as an organization which cares for people in need by offering real, tangible assistance to all those who are facing emergency needs.

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

~Winston Churchill

Note from a volunteer:

I'm an FCS telephone coordinator. Every day that I'm on the phones, I get requests from people in great need. This week, for instance, a family of two parents and six children could not pay their utility bill; their heat would be turned off the next day. Also, there was no food in their house. Because of a new baby, only the father was working outside their home. FCS paid the utility bill and arranged a week's food delivery; and that was only one of six families we assisted that day.

Jane Dickerson

Meeting the Needs



From July through December (the first two quarters of the fiscal year), FCS spent over \$80,000. 508 individuals received help with rent, medical expenses, utilities and special needs. A week's worth of groceries was deliv-

ered to 550 individuals. Meals on Wheels delivered 2 prepared meals to 45 clients 5 days a week. Furniture was delivered or picked up from 64 households.

Studies show that volunteering enhances your own life as you improve the lives of others.



Kingsley Community 4-Her helps sort Thanksgiving food for FCS. The 4-H Club was one of several groups who helped sort the Boy Scout food donations.

We're on the Web!
www.fcswe care.org

I WANT TO HELP

—Please accept this donation to help my neighbors with emergency financial assistance, food, clothing and transportation year round.

Name: _____

Address _____

E-mail (optional)

Please make checks payable to FCS
FCS is a tax exempt, nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

FCS
7416 Arlington Blvd.
Falls Church, VA 22042