

Food Security Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Food Security Initiatives - SoMD Fridges
3. Food Security Initiatives - Food Packing Event
4. Next Meeting

Introductions

- Sue Veith - Department of Economic Development
- Sophia Brauns - Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission/Maryland Market Money
- Aniko Renee - Seedco
- Marybelle Edelen - LifeStyles of Maryland
- Bill Roberts - St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Anjali Raheja - St. Mary's College of Maryland
- Christine Allred - University of Maryland Extension SNAP-Ed
- Lora Jarboe - Southern Maryland WIC
- Shan Chen - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Jennifer Neff - St. Mary's Department of Social Services
- Suha Ansari - St. Mary's County Health Department
- Duane Johnson - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Heather Sills - Southern Maryland WIC
- Alejandro Silva - St. Mary's College of Maryland

Food Security Initiatives - SoMD Fridges

- SMADC and Tri-County Council launched the SoMD Community Fridges program May 2023 in Charles County. Sophie Brauns of SMADC provided a brief overview.
- SoMD Fridges is modeled after the RVA Community Fridges program in Richmond, VA.
- It is funded by Charles County and supported by its community partners
- It is a “zero-barrier” free food service maintained and used by the community it serves. It offers 24/7 access to free food and local produce. In addition to food donations, its food pantry is also stocked with toiletries!
- Starting a SoMD Fridge in St. Mary’s County
 - Funding - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints offered to contribute 80% towards the cost of a refrigerator, as long as another organization can fund 20%, and the receiving entity is a 501 (c)(3), such as a food pantry or soup kitchen
 - Location
 - **Action Item:** Choosing a local food pantry
 - Seedco’s list
 - HSMP’s list

GRAND OPENING 5/6 2 PM

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

coming soon to your neighborhood



A community fridge is a zero-barrier (no documentation required) free food source maintained and used by the community it serves.



Fridges offer mutual support to reduce hunger and food waste, building a stronger community.

24/7 ACCESS TO FREE FOOD & LOCAL PRODUCE

LOCATED AT THE FOOD PANTRY OF CHRIST CHURCH LA PLATA

112 CHARLES ST.
LA PLATA, MD 20646

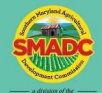
take what you need, leave what you can

Taking care of our fridges and community is a group effort.

Please visit smadc.com/somdcommunityfridges for more information

If you are interested in gifting a monetary donation, please contact SoMDFridges@smadc.com

This work is made possible by funding from the Rural Maryland Council and support from our community partners.



So community fridges

Food Security Initiatives - Food Packing Event

- The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Southern Maryland) is looking for volunteers and a site to host its annual food packing and donation event, “Bag Hunger Southern Maryland” on September 23
 - They are seeking to partner with other entities to help sponsor. [Email Duane](#) for more information or if you would like to volunteer!
- Last year, they packaged 180,000 meals in 6 hours and donated them to food pantries, soup kitchens and homeless shelters
 - Their goal this year is to package 300,000 meals in the same amount of time!
- They are also seeking 2-3 501.c.3 entities that could be direct recipients of the funding/donations from the church
 - Recipients so far include Feed St. Mary’s and Ernie’s Plate in St. Mary’s county
 - Suggestion: [Solomon’s Mission](#) in Calvert county
- Additional resources
 - [Justserve.org](#) - an online platform to search and request volunteer services within your geographical location
 - Aside from its annual meal packing event, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is able to donate large quantities of food (a full truck, or half a truck). If you are a food pantry that is interested, reach out to [Duane Johnson](#).

Next Meeting

- Thursday, August 3rd from 2:30-3:30pm