



Food Security Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023

Agenda

1. Introductions
2. SoMD Fridges
3. Food Pantry Platform
4. Updates & Suggestions
5. Next Meeting

Introductions

- Shan Chen
- Ashlyn Dishman
- Christine Allred
- Aniko Renee
- Jacquie Wells
- Bill Roberts

SoMD Fridges

- Starting a SoMD Fridge in St. Mary's County - Choosing a local food pantry to house the SoMD Fridge
 - Will continue to follow up with local soup kitchens/food pantries to invite them to our subcommittee and obtain input on starting a SoMD Fridges chapter.
 - Also consider Three Oaks Center as a potential location to house the fridge
- SMCHD has secured grant funding to support the partial purchase of a fridge, about \$1,000
 - We have until the end of this calendar year to spend it
 - Will coordinate with Mike Martines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints to purchase
 - We will reach out to our new partner and Church of the Ascension co-investor, Temeria Wilcox NP, to discuss the possibility of housing the fridge there.

Food Pantry Platform

- Landing page, information on food security, and each food pantry will have its own profile page with contact information.
- Community members will be able to register as a volunteer and contact the food pantries. Food pantries can also communicate with one another. Food pantries can reach out the community as well.
- Wellcheck will be monitoring and overseeing activity on the platform
- SMCHD will ensure that contact info is up-to-date.
- Bill expressed an interest in tracking reach and monitoring the progress with the launch of the platform. Metrics include # of families served, demographics of families, neighborhoods, etc.
 - During the info sessions of the portal, this will be something to discuss with the pantries and obtain input
 - Offering incentives to encourage sharing of data

Updates & Suggestions

- **Updates:**

- Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden is now accepting rental plot applications! Opening Spring 2024!
 - Paper copy forms are available outside of Lexington Park library and can be turned into the book drop!
- Feed St. Mary's had a successful Fundraiser on October 27th!
- Bag Hunger SOMD packed over 60,000 servings of food October 7th! They are looking into doing this event again next year.

- **Suggestions:**

- Invite St. Mary's Community Development Corporation to attend Food Security Subcommittee Meetings
 - Do a presentation on the upcoming opening of the Lexington Manor Passive Park Community Garden.
- We discussed collaborating with other local food security organizations, like the regional End Hunger Warehouse in Calvert county, to assist in development.

Next Meeting

- Thursday, December 7th from 2:00-2:30 PM.