

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Date: March 20, 2020

From: Cape Cod Council of Churches, Edye Nesmith, Executive Director

Ways to Be of Assistance as We Serve Others

Well. One foot in front of the other. We have all absorbed the need to become community for one another in new ways. And we are all pushing forward with evolving plans. Thank you for your ongoing patience, compassion and strength.

The Council of Churches operates as a "front-line" service provider in many areas. While we have moved to remote operations where possible, we continue to feed our neighbors at both our Hands of Hope Food Pantry and our Faith Family Kitchen. And we continue to make diapers and wipes available for existing clients of A Baby Center. We will do so unless we are mandated to stop for the health of all, or until we have inadequate funds or volunteers to enable these ministries to continue effectively and safely.

The Council has shifted our models to "Take Out" only, and as we are living into these new protocols, needs for assistance are becoming clear. Many have already kindly reached out to ask how to be of help. Please see the following suggestions.

Ways to Help:

1) Unrestricted Donations. Already, we are seeing an increase in demand for services this week as families are grappling with job insecurity or loss. For example, our diners getting take out at Faith Family Kitchen jumped 3 fold in just one night this week. As this situation unfolds, tax deductible donations in any amount made out to the Cape Cod Council of Churches grant us the maximum flexibility to meet needs as they evolve. Please consider sending a check to our address: 310 Main Street Hyannis, MA. 02601, or make a donation online through the PayPal link on our website, www.CapeCodCouncilofChurches.org. Because we can purchase most of our supplies in bulk we can stretch your dollars.

2) Healthy Volunteers willing to follow strict protocols. Our Hands of Hope Food Pantry is in need of individuals who self-identify as being at lower risk for being incapacitated by the COVID-19 Virus. Program Director, Cathy Driscoll asks that you email her if you could offer a few hours per week packing and then physically carrying filled grocery bags for distribution on site at our West Harwich location, 49 Rte. 28. Email Cathy at churcheshoh@comcast.net.

3) Gift Cards in amounts of \$25 or more. Gift cards allow clients to purchase additional food, gas or other necessary household items that we cannot otherwise provide and that are not covered by SNAP benefits (ex: toilet paper - if you can find it!). Certain grocery store gift cards also allow home bound

people to order grocery delivery, which is a huge help as people need to stay in their homes. We can mail these cards to known clients who cannot or should not come to the Food Pantry or Kitchen. Gift cards can be ordered online from the safety of home, so this is a great way to offer assistance to others. Please mail these cards to Hands of Hope at PO Box 387 West Harwich, MA 02671 or to the Council office, 320 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601.

4) Formula for babies and White Tall 13 Gal. Plastic Trash bags. A Baby Center is in need of Similac and/or Enfamil in any flavor to distribute to families in need. Without sufficient stock, parents often must dilute what the baby receives, which means inadequate nutrition. We are using the trash bags to pack up diapers and wipes for "to go" distribution to our existing clients. Please **drop off donations outside the door to A Baby Center on Wednesdays ONLY between 10am - 12noon.** ABC is located behind the Federated Church, Hyannis, at 81 Willow Ave, Hyannis.

5) Commercial Sized Food Wraps, Paper Bags and New "To Go" Containers. Faith Family Kitchen needs commercial sized rolls of Plastic and Aluminum Foil food wrap. We also need new, plastic, lidded quart and pint sized containers for our new "Take Out" model of dinners for individuals and families who are coping with food insecurity. Additionally, we need sturdy paper grocery bags in bulk. Please email Chef Jeni Wheeler if you can offer these, jenimwheeler@gmail.com.

6) Bulk Quantities of Fresh Produce or Meats from Restaurants needing to close. As restaurants, cafes, and bars

are facing hard decisions to shutter temporarily during this extraordinary time, please consider donating unused quantities of fresh meats and quality produce to Faith Family Kitchen. We will then turn these into nutritional soups/stews for our diners. Please be in touch with Chef Jeni Wheeler, jenimwheeler@gmail.com.

7) Prayers. Prayers for all as we work to support one another through committed partnership.

Please direct any concerns or questions to cccouncildirector@gmail.com.

This is a time that calls for creativity, calm and resilience. We ask God for all.
And we give thanks for you...