

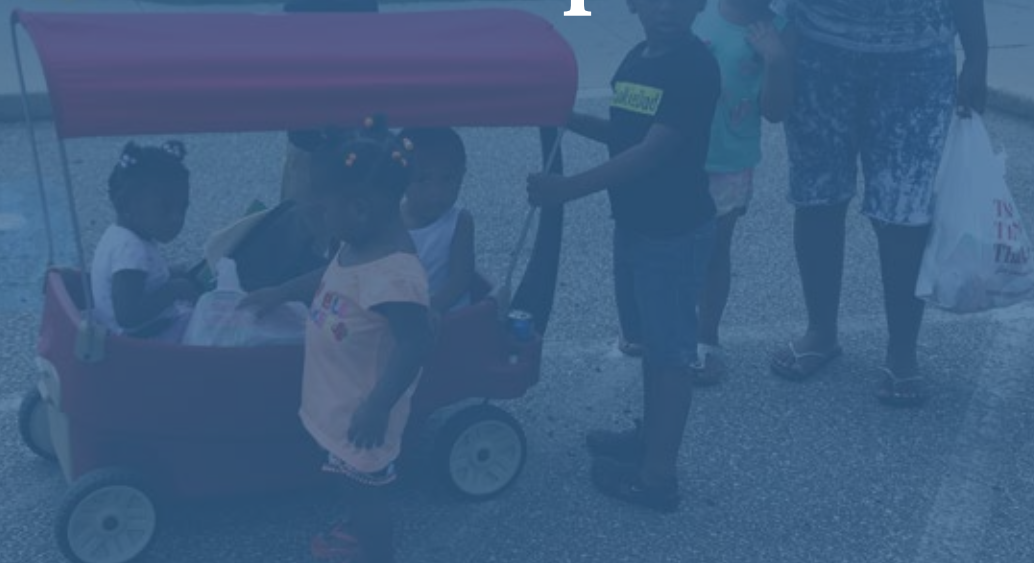
Working Together

MidShore



MEALS til MONDAY
to end childhood hunger

2017-2020 Report



Meals til Monday means.....

To Our Friends and Supporters,

Since its inception in 2017, MidShore Meals til Monday has had one simple goal; “working to end childhood hunger on the Mid-Shore and beyond.” Our mission statement remains our guiding principle and informs every decision we make. How can we best get food into the hands of our children? How do we ensure that children and their families in Dorchester County, Maryland have enough food seven days a week?

Beginning in my own kitchen, the first 25 Meals til Monday bags of weekend food were packed for Vienna Elementary School students in April of 2017. In four short years, our work has touched children and their families attending every public school in Dorchester County. Looking back, it’s hard to imagine that this program would evolve so quickly. Someone once told me, “Take it slow, don’t grow too fast or try to do too much at once.” My response to that remains that we have hungry kids to feed and care for. So, feeding our community is what we’ve done and will continue to do until those we serve no longer experience food-insecurity.

As you read through this report you will see how we’ve grown. I am so proud of our team of volunteers and community partners. I hope you will enjoy looking through this book and know that you are a big part of our efforts. Your support has made this possible. As we celebrate our achievements, we are grateful for your commitment to Meals til Monday and to the future of the children and people of Dorchester County.

Thank you for all you do to help us help our kids,

Leslie Bishop

Founder, Midshore Meals til Monday



.....no missed meals

Recognize the need.....

Today, in 2021, nearly 1 in 4 Marylanders face food-insecurity, (Maryland Food Bank) but in Dorchester County those numbers are even higher. According to Feeding America, nearly 31% of all children live in food-insecure households with many families having to choose between food and other necessities, facing the “heat or eat dilemma.” There are approximately 4,700 students attending Dorchester County Public Schools (DCPS), and about 25%, almost 1200 children, are identified as being food insecure. Food insecurity is defined as the lack of access to enough nutritious food to live an active, healthy life. This translates into a child who rushes the cafeteria line and cleans his plate, possibly asks for more, may have a short attention span or behavior problems in school or requires multiple trips to the nurse’s office. The FARM (Free & Reduced Meals) rates in the DCPS community are such that every student receives breakfast and lunch at school daily at no charge thanks to the federally-funded CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) program.

Hunger isn’t simply a number or a percentage. It’s the child who takes his Meals til Monday bag home from school and hides it under his bed from other family members to make sure he has enough to eat over the weekend. It’s the little first grader who told us at a pre-winter break food give-away that now her family would have food for Christmas. This is what MtM works to overcome.



Meals til Monday is the largest “backpack” program in Dorchester County and provides nutritious, non-perishable, easy-to-prepare food for nearly two thirds of the children facing food-insecurity in our schools. This ensures they have enough food on weekends and holidays. We offer two types of bags; our “Meals til Monday” bags contain at least ten items for breakfast, lunch, snacks, and a fruit component for weekend consumption. Our “Meals til Morning” bags, primarily for high school students, contain food for overnight, dinner, a beverage, snacks, and breakfast. We also provide dental hygiene items, warm hats, and gloves for all children who receive MtM bags. Our partner schools know they can rely on us as a resource for additional items needed, such as coats or other articles of clothing. Currently our programs are in place at four elementary schools: Vienna ES, Choptank ES, Maple ES and Sandy Hill ES, both middle schools, Maces Lane, and North Dorchester and both high schools, Cambridge-South Dorchester, and North Dorchester. We also co-sponsor a farmer’s market in Vienna. Our farmer-vendors sell their produce, and we offer free, fresh produce, pantry staples and other food during the summer months to residents in that area who need them. MtM is a year-round program, and our bags are provided to all children attending summer school and other activities for children from underserved households.

Growth and Change.....

In September, 2017 MtM became a fiscal component fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation in Easton. As such, MSCF provides administrative support and financial oversight. Our 501 (c) (3) status is derived from their stewardship. Their careful management has given us the freedom to concentrate on our core mission and allowed us to expand and develop. In early 2018 we became Maryland Food Bank, Eastern Shore School Pantry partners. This allows us to purchase food from the Food Bank in bulk and at substantial savings. As we grew to encompass more schools, we eventually had pantries at three partner schools. By the end of the 2017-2018 school year, we were preparing bags for about 250 students. The 2018-2019 school year saw another increase in school partners and students served, doubling the number of students from the previous year. At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, we formed partnerships with our high schools and created our Meals til Morning program for high school students in fragile home situations, uncertain about receiving an evening meal. At the beginning of 2020, The Salvation Army approached us and offered us warehouse space behind their Family Store on Rt. 50 in Cambridge. We gratefully moved into our "new home" in February 2020. This enabled us to centralize our operations and proved to be much more beneficial than simply giving us more space for packing and food storage. Thanks to this move, we were able to continue working when the Covid-19 pandemic hit.



Strong & Resilient; Covid 19 Response....

When the Covid-19 Pandemic closed our schools in March, 2020 we immediately got to work providing food to children and their families. Had we still been located at the schools, we would have had to stop completely, as so many organizations working on hunger mitigation did. Operating in close partnership with DCPS, our volunteers packed and distributed 1100 bags of food every week for every family who received food at the school meal distribution sites. Procuring sufficient quantities of food was challenging; the Maryland Food Bank had limited supplies of everything, just like grocery stores. We established accounts with additional vendors, such as SYSCO. Simmons Center Market helped supply food, and we ordered everything we could from Amazon, BJ's, Costco & Sam's Club.

Our volunteers were (and continue to be) amazing. Regardless of the health threat to themselves, our volunteers came out to pack and distribute our MtM bags weekly. Our resources were strained beyond our limits, but we got it done. Everyone was careful, socially distant, masked and gloved, but feeding our children and families was priority #1. In the period from mid-March 2020 through June 2020 we packed and distributed over 15,000 MtM bags. These efforts continue, as schools provide both virtual and in-person learning. However, the number of families picking up school meals and MtM bags has dropped significantly.



Since Inception....

- 🍌 **286,820 lbs of food totaling 239,017 meals**
- 🍌 **55,968 Meals til Monday, Meals til Morning, & food give-away bags.**
- 🍌 **6,439 Volunteer Hours**

Pivot, then pivot again.....

The critical need for food remains great in Dorchester County. However, for a number of factors, school families are not picking up food resources at school meal locations. Many children are receiving breakfast and lunch daily in school as more than half of the student population is back to in-person learning. Most of our school partners have our MtM bags back in school to hand out to students. Our current packing and distribution is more in line with pre-Covid numbers. How, then, do we reach those in need? In consultation with DCPS, The Maryland Food Bank, The Chamber of Commerce, The Local Management Board of Dorchester County, and others, we decided to offer large food distributions (food give-aways), at four locations: Eldorado, South Dorchester K-8 School, Vienna ES and The Empowerment Center in Cambridge. Beginning in January 2021, we have been

holding four each month, allowing us to reach more food-insecure members of our community, in particular seniors. The Eldorado Fire Department has given us the use of their building for our food distribution and members of the Hooper's Island Fire Department are spreading the word and assisting with food distribution to those in need in the South Dorchester area. Our school partners, especially Vienna ES and South Dorchester K-8 School help enormously in these efforts. People are picking up and delivering food for neighbors, family and friends who need food assistance which expands our reach. This is truly a countywide effort to aid anyone and everyone needing groceries. The Maryland Food Bank, Eastern Shore, provides the items we bag up and give out. Thanks to their generous program of "invoice forgiveness" we are currently able to provide an additional

\$20,000.00 worth of food each month. Each family receives a grocery bag filled with non-perishable pantry staples, a bag with frozen meats and chicken, another with baked goods and fresh produce as that becomes available. Large families receive even more. Again, our wonderful volunteer team unloads the Food Bank pallets, packs up the bags and hands them out. We estimate we're helping an additional 600 families each month this way. These efforts will continue over the summer to ensure our fellow citizens have sufficient food. Due to the learning loss caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, approximately 750 - 1,000 children, will attend summer school in 2021. All students will receive MtM bags each week. We will work with community partners and provide our bags to any child in other summer programs who would benefit from supplemental, weekend food.



By The Numbers....

Numbers don't tell the whole story, but our growth can be measured by the increases in the number of bags distributed, pounds of food ordered from the Maryland Food Bank, volunteer hours and most importantly, number of children and families we help.

In April 2017, this program started by serving 25 children at Vienna Elementary School. Today, we provide food for over 700 children and their families in Dorchester County, MD.

We became Maryland Food Bank School Pantry partners in the beginning of 2018 and have been purchasing the bulk of our food from them since that time. Feeding America, the parent organization of the Food Bank calculates 1.2 lbs of food as equal to one meal. Here is the breakdown of what we've received from 2018-2020.

What It Costs...

\$4.90 for each Meals til Monday bag of weekend food.
\$3.20 for each Meals til Morning bag of overnight food.

2018: 52,579 lbs of food = 43,816 meals

2019: 83,045 lbs of food = 69,204 meals

2020: 151,196 lbs of food = 125,997 meals

239,017 meals reflects food procured from the Maryland Food Bank only and does not include the totals including the fresh fruit, and other food Meals til Monday purchased from other sources.

2018: Total number of Meals til Monday bags: 4641

2019: Total of Meals til Monday, Meals til Morning, and food give-away bags: 17,240

2020: Total of Meals til Monday, Meals til Morning, and food give-away bags: 34,087

Of course, many volunteer hours went into packing and distributing all that food.

2018: Total of volunteer hours given by our dedicated team: 365

2019: Total of volunteer hours performed by our amazing and loyal group: 1,826

2020: Total of volunteer hours provided by our courageous and faithful crew: 4,248

Many of our group of core volunteers show up each week to help, some assist on occasion but all are welcome and vital to our efforts.

It takes more than a village.....

None of this happens without a tremendous amount of hard work on the part of our dedicated volunteers. As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on so many to support and manage our programs:

Advisory Board Members

Leslie Bishop, Director
HL Ward, Co-Manager of Finance
Valerie Goff, DCPS Liaison
Patty Kaczmarek, Packing Manager
Julie Crain, Member
Joyce Green, Member

Will Bishop, Co-Founder & Secretary
Andrew Pasden, Co-Manager of Finance
Linda Starling, Volunteer Manager
Paris Quillet, Member
Linda Chandlee, Member
Josh Poore, Omni Solutions Agency, Consultant



Volunteers

Dave Thatcher, Distribution and Transportation Manager
Mary Beth Klotz, Blog Manager

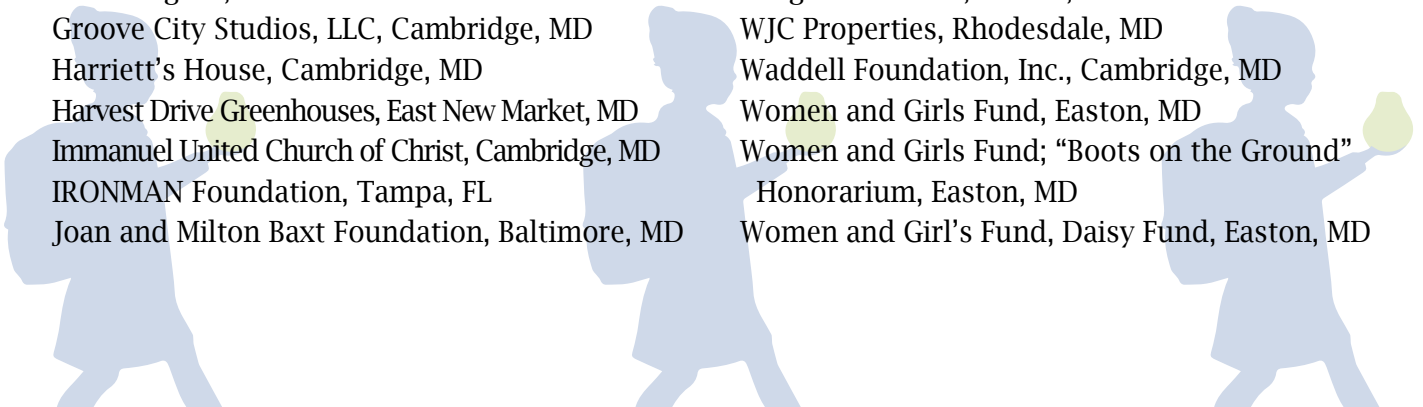


With a little (more) help from our friends....

Community, business, foundations, faith-based and other partners are the backbone of our support network. We are deeply grateful to each and every one for your backing and assistance.

Abu Lahab Court 189, Salisbury, MD
American Legion Auxiliary,
Dorchester Post #91, Cambridge, MD
Angelo H. Magafan Family Foundation, Bethesda, MD
Annapurna Restaurant Group, LLC
dba Jimmie & Sooks, Cambridge, MD
Arthur H. Kudner, Jr. COVID Grant,
Bank of America Matching Gifts, Charlotte, NC
Bond Servants, Inc., Cambridge, MD
Bryan Brothers Foundation, Inc., Easton, MD
Cambridge Rotary Community
Service Foundation, Cambridge, MD
Choptank Transport Community
Foundation, Preston, MD
COVID-19 Response Fund, MSCF, Easton, MD
COVID-19 Dorchester County Response Fund,
MSCF, Easton, MD
Dorchester County, MD, Cambridge, MD
Dorchester Elks Lodge #223, Cambridge, MD
Dorchester Garden Club, Cambridge, MD
Food Lion Community Relations Retail Business
Services, Salisbury, NC
Friendship United Methodist Church, Cambridge, MD
Fund for Dorchester County (MSCF),
Dorchester County, MD
George B. Todd Fund, Dorchester County, MD
George Jackson Plumbing, Church Creek, MD
Grace Lutheran Church, Easton, MD
Greater Washington Community Foundation,
Washington, DC
Groove City Studios, LLC, Cambridge, MD
Harriett's House, Cambridge, MD
Harvest Drive Greenhouses, East New Market, MD
Immanuel United Church of Christ, Cambridge, MD
IRONMAN Foundation, Tampa, FL
Joan and Milton Baxt Foundation, Baltimore, MD

Joy Staniforth Properties, LLC, Cambridge, MD
Lions Club of Cambridge, Cambridge, MD
Lowe's of Easton, Wilkesboro, NC
Main Street Gallery, Inc., Cambridge, MD
Maryland Association of Realtors, Annapolis, MD
Maryland Food Bank, Eastern Shore, Salisbury, MD
Mid-Shore Board of Realtors, Inc., Easton, MD
Mid-Shore Realtors Foundation, Easton, MD
Nancy and Steven Jacobson Philanthropic Fund,
United Jewish Endowment Fund, North Bethesda, MD
Nathan Foundation, Cambridge, MD
No Kid Hungry, Share Our Strength, Washington, DC
Paris Foods Corporation, Trappe, MD
Partners in Giving, Inc., Cambridge, MD
Pauline F. and W. David Robbins
Charitable Foundation, Cambridge, MD
Preston Automotive Group, Preston, MD
Providence Fund, (MSCF), Easton, MD
Quota International of Cambridge, Inc., Cambridge, MD
Rock the Choptank, Cambridge, MD
St. Luke United Methodist Church, Cambridge, MD
Salvation Army, Cambridge, MD
The Amerisource Bergen Foundation, Plano, TX
The Blackbaud giving Fund, Charleston, SC
The Bold Solution, Boca Raton, FL
The Choptank Churches, Cambridge, MD
The Mary Mac Foundation, Inc., Berlin, MD
The Wine Shop, LLC, Easton, MD
University of Maryland Shore
Regional Health, Easton, MD
WJC Properties, Rhodesdale, MD
Waddell Foundation, Inc., Cambridge, MD
Women and Girls Fund, Easton, MD
Women and Girls Fund; "Boots on the Ground"
Honorarium, Easton, MD
Women and Girl's Fund, Daisy Fund, Easton, MD



You are why we can do what we do....

Meals til Monday operates on the strength of contributions from our individual donors. Thanks to your generous support, our children, families, seniors, and other members of the community in Dorchester County have food. We are grateful to you all:

Mr. and Mrs. Norman A. Klotz
Dr. and Mrs. Fred Beveridge
Mr. Robert F. Spillman, Jr.
and Ms. Joyce A. Wise
Mr. James N. Sicks
and Ms. Donna Day
Ms. Maureen S. Farrell
and Mr. Brooks Bridges
Mr. Nathanael Busbee
Mr. Joseph Davis
Ms. Elizabeth J. Maddox
Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Marquette
Lawrence N. Rosenblum, CPA
Mr. Michael Spears
and Ms. Natalie Chabot
Mr. David C. Thatcher, Jr
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Harp
Mr. and Mrs. Michael R. Hubbard
Mr. and Mrs. Mark D. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. J. Curtis Rich
Ms. Shermaine Perry
Mr. and Mrs. Neill Haskin
Ms. Lisa Heaton
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Saum
Judge and Mrs. Stephen Rideout
Ms. Theresa McFadden
Ms. Valerie D. Murray
Mr. & Mrs. Carl N. Ziegler
Dr. and Mrs. Mahmood S. Shariff
Ms. Maris Wicker
and Mr. Laurence E. Skinner
Ms. Katie Day and Mr. Jim Sicks
Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. David W. Taylor
Mr. and Mrs. J. Ray Teat
Mr. Willem Zipp
and Mrs. Maria Zipp Koedijk
Ms. Valerie Goff
Ms. Susan W. Robinson
Ms. Natalie Chotan
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Renkwitz
Ms. Kathy Burtman
Ms. Anne W. McAnulty
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Tama
Ms. Roberta K. Benfer
Mr. and Mrs. John K. Howie
Ms. Davette L. Askins
Ms. Alexzine J. Slaughter
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Joseph
Mr. and Mrs. Edward G. Redmer Jr.
Ms. Anne Whaples
Ms. Cathy C. Collins
Ms. Jacquelyn R. Wolfle

Ms. Jan Turner
Mr. Frederick C. Pomeroy
and Ms. Lexine D. Lowe
Ms. Karol B. Redline
Ms. Margaret Maddox
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. Usab
Ms. Mary Edmiston
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Towers
Mr. and Mrs. Alan M. Sleeper
Mr. and Mrs. Brett Wilson
Ms. Debora I. Hubbard
Mr. and Mrs. Craig L. Duerling
Mr. Herve O. Hamon and Ms.
Marlene Loper
Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Yore
Mr. Frank J. Narr, Jr.
Ms. Tiffany M. Butcher
Mrs. Leslie Bishop and
Mr. William Bishop
Mr. and Mrs. A. Dennis Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Santo Grande
Mr. Charles J. Weber, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Higgins
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Meyers
Mr. Odin Knudsen
Ms. Donna Batcho
Ms. Mara-Louise Schmerfeld
Mr. Michael Droettboom
and Ms. Lillian Potter
Ms. Michaela Goff
Ms. Katarina Janik
Mr. Jaimie Carkuff
Mr. Ian Evans
Ms. Lisa Wool
Ms. Robyn Cavanagh
Ms. Cathleen Robins
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Veatch
Mr. Robert Iacovazzi
and Ms. Jeannie Bellina
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas G. Long
Mr. George L. Vojtech, Jr.
and Ms. Patricia A. Kaczmarek
Mr. and Ms. Nicholas J. Deoudes
Ms. Ann Crocker
Mr. Mark W. Heckler
Ms. Jane C. Weeks
Ms. Cheryl Campbell
Ms. Pamela Allen
Ms. Dorothy Drazhal
Ms. Linda Chandlee
Ms. Sairah Malkin
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Brooks
Ms. Patricia Dekker

Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Jones
Ms. Kathleen Schloeder
Mr. and Mrs. Steven F. Gross
Ms. Susan Mason
Mr. Roger Maki
Mr. and Mrs. James Marquette
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Starling
Ms. Judith Robbins
Ms. Sarah Gavian
Ms. Holly Ranney
Ms. Michelle Cook
Mr. and Mrs. Terence L. Martin
Ms. Michelle J. Moodispaw
Ms. Victoria J. Stanley
Mr. and Mrs. Angelo H. Magafan
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Jacobson
Mr. Edward Quinn, Jr.
Ms. Jacquelyn Burchfield
Ms. Vicki Zobel
Ms. Heidi S. Thompson
Ms. Janet Boss
Ms. Leslie Giles
Mr. and Mrs. Barry Barker
Ms. Erin Solava
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Bauer
Ms. Patricia E. White
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Carkuff
Mr. David J. Valentine
Mr. David A. Adams
and Mr. Andre J. Duerinckx
Ms. Jenifer Valentine
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Bishop
Ms. Pamela Dalton
Ms. Marilyn Valentine
Ms. Kelly Crowe
Mr. Clyde Garrett
Ms. Michell D. Kauffman
Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Harrison
Ms. Jill Jasuta
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy R. Yost
Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas
Mr. Wayne Bateman
and Ms. Cindy Prell
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Pasden, Jr.
Ms. Katherine Bradshaw
Mr. and Mrs. G. Philip Feldman
Mr. and Mrs. Lee R. Waggoner
Ms. Charlene Zinnel
Ms. Martha Cannon
Ms. Alison Rodrigues
Ms. Julie Bryan
Ms. Jennifer Schultz
Ms. Julie Crain

Ms. Denise Schermer
Ms. Rebecca Manning
Ms. Sarah Holman
Ms. Stephanie Humphreys
Ms. Leslie Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Smith
Mr. John T. Puglisi
and Ms. Susan V. Morgan
Ms. Kimberly R. Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Gary D. Yorton
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick O. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie A. Dayton
Ms. LeAnn McWilliams
Ms. Donna J. Brake
Mr. and Mrs. W. David Bromwell
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis E. McCollister
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Brooke
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Staniforth
Mrs. Alicia C. Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. William C. Craig
Mr. H.L. Ward
Ms. Cynthia Love
Ms. Jayne Dickinson
Anna Burgess
Ms. Rhonda Workman
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn O. Slaughter
Ms. Caroline Schellhas
Ms. Melissa Lantz
Mr. Lawrence Josefyk
Ms. Evelyn Shreve
Mr. Michael Hepp
Mr. Jerry Gerard
Mr. Shuntae McKelvin
Ms. Mollie Bold
Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Edwards
Mr. Larry C. Pinkett
Ms. Mary M. Losty
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic T. Suss, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Udo Heckenbach
Mr. and Mrs. David Chotan
Ms. Sheila A. Washburn
Ms. Roxanne Wolf
Ms. Monique Morrow
Ms. Tiffany Eason
Mr. Kent Kemmerer
Ms. Susan Klise
Ms. Barbara Turner
Vaughn Jones
Mr. and Mrs. James H. Simmons
Ms. Allison K. Marriott Prell

Our community friends and partners.....

So many organizations and local partners have assisted by sponsoring food-drives, helping with extra packing, delivering bins and in countless other ways. We are grateful to you all:

Pauline F. and W. David Robbins Family YMCA

Girl Scout Troop 29

Girl Scout Troop 258

Bond Servants, Inc.

Vienna ES church & community packers

Horn Point Oyster Hatchery, Stephanie Alexander, Director,
and staff members

Choptank Transport Community Involvement Team

Visionquest Morning Star Youth Academy

University of Maryland Extension, SNAP-Ed

The ARC of the Chesapeake

The Colaprete Family

The Condon Family

Five Fold Fitness Gym

Lisa Peters, Food Service Manager & The Food Services Staff
at Dorchester County Public Schools

Cambridge Lions Club

Rotary Club of Cambridge

Unity-Washington UMC, Hurlock

River Church, Cambridge

Eldorado Fire Department, Chief Bob Murphy

Hooper's Island Fire Department

Habitat for Humanity, Choptank

DCPS Central Office Staff



Many Helping Hands....



Hopes and dreams; what's next.....

Certainly, the past year has taught us that no matter how carefully you plan, something will happen to bring about a change in direction. We've all had to be flexible and creative, and Meals til Monday is no exception. However, our goal remains to return to our core value of making certain children have adequate food and nutrition seven days a week. We will continue helping families and other community members but increasing the number of children we serve who need food-assistance is our primary objective.

One way to do that is to reach our kids where they live. Under discussion is using a refrigerated truck to bring fresh and frozen foods into neighborhoods for distribution. Another idea is having weekly "pick-up" sites where food would be available. Perhaps our Vienna Farmer's Market becomes a year-round food pantry. These ideas and other ways to get more food into the hands of our children and families is possible; all it takes is vision, volunteers, and the means to make it happen.

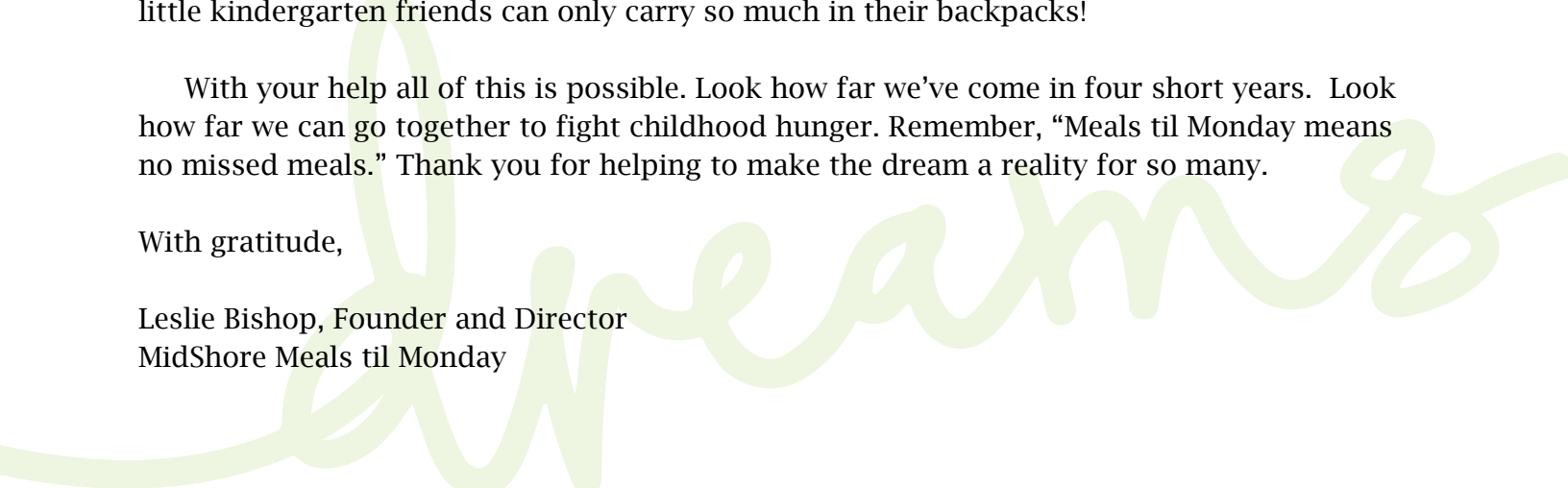
However, as our organization grows, so must our capacity. This will require hiring an Executive Director, most likely within the next three years. We cannot sustain our momentum simply on volunteer efforts and I cannot continue in my role forever! Again, we'll need funds and support. The Meals til Monday Development Fund was created in 2020. This fund, separate from our normal operating fund, is to pave the way and "pay the way" for our future. This resource will serve as the basis for an Executive Director's salary, and additional opportunities for growth. We hope you will consider donating to this or to our MSCF fund to ensure the realization of our vision for the future.

As Meals til Monday continues our mission of "working to end childhood hunger on the Mid-Shore and beyond," we know we cannot solve the systemic causes of this problem. What we can do is work with educational and community partners to develop programs on better nutrition, growing our food, cooking classes, work to eliminate food deserts, and increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Under development is a pilot program to augment our Meals til Monday bags with foods for the entire family. This will include recipe cards and items such as spaghetti, sauce, canned vegetables, and other pantry staples to create meals for the entire family. One obstacle we need to overcome is the weight of additional items; our little kindergarten friends can only carry so much in their backpacks!

With your help all of this is possible. Look how far we've come in four short years. Look how far we can go together to fight childhood hunger. Remember, "Meals til Monday means no missed meals." Thank you for helping to make the dream a reality for so many.

With gratitude,

Leslie Bishop, Founder and Director
MidShore Meals til Monday



Working together



to end childhood hunger.

“At Dorchester County Public Schools, we have come to understand that Meals til Monday’s mission is much more than providing a weekend backpack program. It is to ensure that all our students have what they need to succeed. Hunger affects concentration; hunger affects behavior; hunger affects motivation. All of this means hunger deters academic achievement. The services provided by MtM help address these issues and are a vital component to help us as educators achieve our goal of providing the knowledge and skills that our students need to improve both their life chances and our community as a whole. We are very grateful for their partnership.” *W. David Bromwell, Superintendent of Schools, Dorchester County Public Schools*

“All I can say is that I truly appreciate the opportunity to be included in with such a great group! ...The whole experience has enriched my life beyond words & given me a purpose, made me realize my calling in life is to reach out to others & help when/where I can, that I help make a difference in someone else’s life. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for enriching my soul!” *Mary Ann W., MtM Volunteer*

“Meals til Monday is a true community hero. ...Their meals are not only delicious, but mostly nutritious & easy for a young children to prepare. Without the day in and day out work from this organization, this community would not be the same. The best part is, all of the volunteers are great people! ...Thanks for all you do!” *Lauren Wilson, Choptank Transport*

“A little more than four years ago, Leslie Bishop visited me at Vienna Elementary School to ask me about the needs of our children related to them being hungry any time we were not in session. I welcomed Mrs. Bishop with her original plastic bags of healthy multiple weekend meals and snacks for 25 of our students. We learned many lessons in those first months of the “Backpack Program;” first being that 25 bags for 25 children were simply not enough. By the time school let out for the summer that year, we had more than doubled the distribution number. Through growing pains and learning experiences since then, Meals til Monday” has evolved to include community involvement; senior citizen volunteers bagging up food, making Vienna Elementary a Maryland Food Bank Distribution Center; and, our fourth and fifth graders learning about character strength and giving as they assist in packing food bank boxes. Mrs. Bishop is a blessing. She has become a regular member of our school community. She is loved and her endless contributions to our children and their families have become part of our school culture.” *Susie Price, Principal, Vienna Elementary School*

“Meals til Monday has been a HUGE help to our school - Our kids look forward to receiving their bags each week - eagerly asking me almost every day, “Is it FRIDAY yet”! ...We couldn’t be more appreciative and grateful.” *Mrs. Frost - School Counselor Sandy Hill Elementary School, (SHES)*

“It is very kind, caring, and helpful to my family.” *5th grade student Sandy Hill Elementary School*

“MidShore Meals til Monday has been a tremendous asset to Dorchester County. They have built a program that serves a definitive need in that community. We are excited to continue to watch them grow.” *Buck Duncan, President, MSCF*