

Emergency Food Response Fund

Designed to bridge the gap for neighbors facing increased food insecurity during the government shutdown.



WHO IT HELPS

- Local UMC-Connected food pantries and community feeding ministries
- Larger relief networks serving the Commonwealth *Feeding America, FeedMore, etc.*

HOW GIFTS WILL BE USED

- Rapid-response micro-grants for local UMC food pantries and community ministries that apply for assistance.
- Financial support to larger hunger-relief networks (Feeding America, FeedMore) for regional distribution of meals.

HOW TO GIVE

- **Online:** visit vaumc.org/supportfoodpantries to give
- **By Check:** Checks can be addressed to the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church at 10330 Staples Mill Road Suite 100, Glen Allen, VA 23060

Through your generosity, we can make sure every neighbor has access to daily bread and that our United Methodist connection continues to be a channel of hope and care in this critical time.

Support Food Pantries

In the ongoing government shutdown, there are a number of communities impacted that include our homeless population, federal workers, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) families.

Prepare to Help

Listen First

Start by listening to those on the front lines – pantry directors, volunteers, and community members – before deciding how to respond. **Before anything else – listen first.**



Inform Yourself

Inform yourself, church, and community. Awareness is a vitally important form of care. **The more we seek to understand the realities of the need in our communities, the better we can give, advocate, and serve faithfully together.**



Remain Focused

Once you are informed, you might find yourself overwhelmed. How can you help when there is so much need from so many communities? **Focus on your local community and help make an impact there.**



Ways to Help

DONATE to food pantries



- **Ask first:** Check with your local pantry about their specific needs.
- **Staple items:** Donate meals-in-a-box, pastas, mac and cheese, cereal, peanut butter.
- **Ease of use:** Opt for items that are easy to open and don't need heating/cooking.
- **Buy in bulk:** large donations make a significant impact
- **Avoid:** Using your home pantry to donate items; check for expiration dates.

GIVE financially



- **Local Giving:** Check with your local pantry about how to give
- **Conference Giving:** Give to the new **Virginia Conference Emergency Food Response Fund**

PRAY



Pray that those affected receive their “daily bread” and that we may listen for how God might use us to help provide it.

VOLUNTEER



See if your local pantry needs volunteer support and help meet this need.



vaumc.org/supportfoodpantries