

Glade Valley Community Services Newsletter
P.O. Box 655, Walkersville, Maryland 21793
www.gladevalley.org
301-845-0213
March 2018



Our Mission

**To meet the needs of families and individuals in the Glade Valley area through the coordination of donations of time, talent, money and other resources.
Neighbors Helping Neighbors**

Glade Valley Community Services (GVCS) is an umbrella non-profit organization serving the Walkersville feeder school area. Its programs include the Food Bank, the Thrift Shop, the Emergency Relief Fund, the Back to School supplies distribution and the Holiday Toy Shoppe. We provide some funding to SOWAC for the summer lunch program. All programs are run entirely by volunteers and donations.

Please help us continue to make a difference in 2018. For your consideration and convenience, a contribution envelope is enclosed. You may designate your donation for a specific program or allow GVCS to use it where it is most needed. Thank you!

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### A Very Generous Community

Your generous donations of time, money and resources say so much about our community. Thank you to everyone who supported GVCS in so many different ways this past year - volunteers, donors, churches, schools, businesses, organizations, individuals and the Town of Walkersville. You exemplify the GVCS mission, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors". By supporting the GVCS programs, you have made a difference for many in our community who are facing difficult situations.

Volunteers are special people and the heart of our community. GVCS volunteers join the firefighters, EMTs, youth sports volunteers, Scout leaders, school volunteers, church volunteers, service organization volunteers, and many others to make this a better place to live. Nationwide, the Corporation for National and Community Service estimate that volunteers gave 8 billion hours of service in 2016. Imagine what our community and country would be like without volunteers! Imagine all the organizations and events that would not exist without volunteers! Imagine no GVCS Food Bank, Thrift Shop, Toy Shoppe, Emergency Relief Fund, School Supply distribution or summer lunch program in our area. Where would our neighbors in difficult situations go for help?

Thank you to everyone who supports us. You make the GVCS programs possible. Read about them in the following pages.

*If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.  
Martin Luther King, Jr.*

## 2018 Glade Valley Community Services Board of Directors

The programs of Glade Valley Community Services are managed and coordinated by the volunteer members of the GVCS Board of Directors, who spend hundreds of hours each year planning and operating each of the programs. They all work to make a difference for many in our community who are facing hard times. Our community is a better place because of them.

Retired recently from the Board:

Thank you Carl Tepper for over 2 years of service on the Board of Directors. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Thank you Pastor Dave Weber for over 4 years of service on the Board of Directors. He is relocating to sunny California, and we wish him well.

### 2018 Board of Directors

|                |                                                           |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Don Boos       | President, Back-to-School, Holiday Toy Shoppe             |
| Vicki Poole    | Vice President, Emergency Relief Fund                     |
| Sue Richter    | Treasurer                                                 |
| Mitzi Smith    | Secretary                                                 |
| Donna Swanson  | Food Bank co-manager                                      |
| Ann Wadding    | Emergency Relief Fund, Holiday Toy Shoppe, Back-to-School |
| Kathy Fenimore | Newsletter, new member 2018                               |

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Trade / Technical School Students - A Scholarship Opportunity for You

The Peg and Orley Bourland Educational Assistance Fund is awarded annually through The Community Foundation of Frederick and Glade Valley Community Services. The scholarship's purpose is to provide need-based monies for post-secondary education in trade or technical fields to help defray the costs associated with tuition, fees, testing, trade tools, tutoring or supplies. Applicants' eligibility requirements are: residency in the Walkersville feeder school area, a description of financial need, career goals, the specifics of how the funds will be used, and the applicant must be enrolled in an accredited post-secondary educational program. *Preference is given to applicants who are pursuing the vocational, technical and skilled trade fields (not 4 year degrees).* The award will be either one \$1000 or two \$500 scholarships. Previous recipients and adults are encouraged to apply. Applications are due in The Community Foundation's office by Friday, **March 30th by 4:00 pm** (not post-marked, but received). Applications are available for pick up at the following locations: Walkersville High School Career Center, Career and Technology Center (CTC), Glade Valley Food Bank, Walkersville Public Library, Walkersville Town Hall, Woodsboro Town Hall, FCC Career Office and The Community Foundation of Frederick. An application can also be downloaded from the GVCS website at www.GladeValley.org and the Community Foundation's website at www.FrederickCountyGives.org. For information call the GVCS Office at 301-845-0213.

Toy Shoppe Brightens the Holidays for Many

Thanks once again to our very generous community, volunteers and a dedicated committee chaired by Ann Wadding and co-chaired by Sally Walton, Mary Ann Brodie Enis, and Mel Palmer, the holiday spirit was alive at Walkersville Town Hall during the Holiday Toy Shoppe in December. This year 76 families with 112 children 10 years and younger, 35 middle schoolers and 55 teens received gifts which consisted of clothing, socks, underwear, coats, hats, gloves, toys, books and gift cards. Children under 12 also received homemade stockings, made by Phyllis Dayhoff, filled with age appropriate toys and books. Gift wrap and tape were provided for the families to wrap their gifts.

Thanks to our great donors who collected coats, we were once again able to provide **every** family member with a winter coat, and we had a generous donation of homemade scarves and hats for the adults to choose from as well.

A list of donors is on our website, http://gladevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/thank-you-flyer-2017_3.pdf

The families were very grateful and happy as they left the Toy Shoppe with carts piled high with gifts for their children. Here are a few of the thank you notes the Toy Shoppe committee received:

"Thank you so much for helping me make my kids' Christmas a great one! They are going to feel as loved and important as they are, because they will have awesome presents from Santa. It has taken so much stress off me because I know their Christmas is going to be a good one. Thank you so much."

*"Our dear friends at GVCS,
You made Christmas possible for our 5, yes 5, children this year. We both have full time jobs and try to pick up extra hours when we can just to make sure food gets to the table."*

We cannot thank you enough for all that you do. Thank you for making this Christmas one to remember for a very special ten year old, seven year old, four year old, three year old and nine month old, but more so for letting us, as parents, witness the true miracle of Christmas in the eyes of our children Christmas morning."

"I can never thank you all enough! For several years now, I have relied on the Toy Shoppe to help make Christmas feel more like Christmas for my kiddos. Despite working a full time job and a part time job, anything above living expenses is always a challenge! The Toy Shoppe helps so my kids can have more than just one item on Christmas morning because usually that's what it comes down to is choosing where and how to spend what little I manage to save for Christmas. It's always wonderful to be greeted by many volunteers I personally know from church and our amazing community! Their hugs and smiles really help to comfort when pride can make someone asking for help feel badly. Thank you to each and every one of your for all you do! It's my hope that one day I can help along side of you. Much love and appreciation."



Santa's Elves

*Front: Linda Walton, Sharon Whitmer, Ann Wadding, Renee Shawver, Jesse Johnson, Nikki Ramsay, Christina Karszen
Back: Maureen Koontz, Silvina Etchegoyen, Erin McMurry, Sheri Jacobs, Mel Palmer, Tina Miller, Oneida Eaves, Mitzi Smith, Pat Douglass, Vicki Poole, Darlene Grimes*



Members of KMS Baseball Team help donors unload Toy shoppe donations. L to R: Derek Rivera, Jason Rivera, Graham Albers, Dave Karszen, Colby Horning, Brooks Burnett, Kyle Brown, Liam McFadden



Scouting for Food: Scouts, parents and volunteers sort and box about 10,000 pounds of donated food in the parking lot of the Food Bank at Walkersville Town Hall.

Glade Valley Food Bank

The Food Bank was busy in 2017. There were 1500 household visits to the Food Bank; each visit provides 7 to 10 days of food. Approximately 60,800 pounds of donated food including bread and bakery items were distributed, plus another 12,000 pounds of donated items such as dairy, eggs, produce and miscellaneous items. In addition, 26,800 pounds of food provided by the government through the Maryland Food Bank were distributed. That's 99,600 pounds of food our volunteers handled multiple times from its delivery to the Food Bank to pick up by the clients.

The community has been generous with food donations this year. The Boy Scouts, leaders and parents collected and sorted about 10,000 pounds of food in early November during the Scouting for Food Drive. Their hard work that day and the generosity of the community are greatly appreciated. Many other groups including schools, churches and civic groups collect food throughout the year which helps maintain a steady inventory and is always much appreciated. Funds donated to the Food Bank are used to purchase perishable food such as eggs and turkeys, and other items needed to supplement our inventory when supplies run low, so that the clients always get a full well balanced order of food.

Glade Valley Food Bank managers, Donna Swanson and Brenda Haines, were co-chairs for the Frederick County distribution of approximately 500 turkeys and holiday meals provided by the Maryland Food Bank to the nine local food banks. Volunteers met the trucks from the Maryland Food Bank at the Emergency Management Training Center and bagged the canned goods for each meal. Then the bags and turkeys were picked up by each of the local food banks. Glade Valley Food Bank volunteers distributed over 150 turkeys and holiday food bags to its clients.

Donations are much appreciated. Many churches, schools and other organizations have collection boxes for Food Bank items. If yours does not, why not start one? **Food Drive sponsors** are needed throughout the year. If your organization is planning an event this year, why not include a collection for the Food Bank during the event? Many organizations include a note in their announcement asking attendees to bring an item for the Food Bank.

Urgently needed: Cereal and canned fruit/applesauce

Others items needed include:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Hamburger/Chicken Helper | Canned Tuna | Rice |
| Canned Pasta (spaghetti-O's, etc.) | Baked Beans | Toilet Paper |
| Boxes Potatoes (mashed, scalloped) | Spaghetti Sauce | |

All non-perishable food items are welcome; clean plastic grocery bags are always needed. Please check the "Use by Date" on items you are taking out of your cupboards. At this time, the Food Bank does not need green beans or corn due to generous donations of these items.

Volunteers are always welcome; currently needed are people who can pick up from local stores during the week. Donations of food can be dropped off throughout the year at the Food Bank, lower level of Town Hall, 21 West Frederick St, in Walkersville on Mondays, 6:30 to 8:00 pm and Thursdays, 1:00 to 3:00 pm. The phone number is 301-845-4229. Food Bank email: gvfb21w@gmail.com



Community Thrift Shop in Need of Volunteers

Generous donations of gently used clothing to our Community Thrift Shop provided enough clothing for those in need to purchase about 1400 bags of clothing at minimal cost and 300 coats. The Thrift Shop is managed by volunteers MaryAnne Schouw and Mel Palmer. Volunteers sort all the clothing and staff the shop during Saturday hours. St. Paul's Lutheran Church has provided much appreciated space in their Parish Hall for the Thrift Shop for many years.

Volunteers are urgently needed to help staff the Thrift Shop on some Saturdays this coming year. Some churches have committed to provide volunteers for a given month, but there are still some months without volunteers. The Thrift Shop will have to close on Saturdays when no volunteers are available. Hopefully that will not be necessary, but **volunteers are needed now** to fill the schedule. Many families depend on the Thrift Shop for their children as well as themselves. Let's not disappoint them with a "closed due to lack of volunteers" sign.

Whether you can volunteer for one Saturday, every Saturday for a month, or on a regular monthly schedule (every first Saturday, etc.) you will make a difference. Teens who need community service hours are welcome. Groups are welcome to sponsor a month. To volunteer, contact MaryAnne at maryanne.schouw@gmail.com or 301-845-4126.

The GVCS Community Thrift Shop is located in the basement of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Parish Hall at 19 West Pennsylvania Ave. near Fulton Ave. in Walkersville. The shop is open most Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. A large bag of clothing is \$2.00, coats \$1.00 and shoes are free. All proceeds benefit GVCS programs.

Please donate your clean, gently used clothing, books and small household items to the Thrift Shop to benefit local families. The Thrift Shop is in **need of more children's clothing and shoes**. Look for the name Glade Valley Thrift Shop on the green clothing drop boxes. Please be sure to drop donations *inside* of the green boxes; clothes left outside the boxes are often damaged.



In Walkersville, the green clothing drop boxes are located at the entrance to the St. Paul's Parish Hall parking lot at 19 West Pennsylvania Ave. near Fulton Ave., and at the Walkersville Community Church, 207 Braeburn Drive. In Woodsboro, there is a clothing drop box located in the upper parking lot at Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran church, 101 S. Main St. Entrance to the upper parking lot is by way of Church Alley.

Thrift Shop clothing drop box at Woodsboro Evangelical Lutheran Church off Church Alley

Emergency Relief Fund Helps 38 Families in 2017

The GVCS Emergency Relief Fund has had another busy quarter and year! There were 58 calls in the 4th quarter of 2017 alone, and 160 calls for the year from families needing assistance of some kind. These calls are from new callers only, and do not include the multiple calls to and from each client as their case moves through the financial assistance request process. This process can require 5 to 15 phone calls or more, depending on the case's complexity.

Some of these callers face immediate shut-off of their water or electric. This means the client and ERF Coordinator must work quickly to prevent this from happening and impacting basic human needs such as heat, light, food storage and preparation, drinking water, bathing and bathroom facilities. It is important to keep in mind that this also affects the children in the households and their ability to learn in school.

The Emergency Relief Fund spent \$8267 in 2017 for various types of assistance for 38 families in need. That was 64 adults and 63 children whose lives were positively impacted by the dollars donated by our very generous community! There were also 21 families who were eligible for assistance, but those families did not call back to proceed with their requests for assistance, likely due to receiving enough funds for their bills from other sources.

Areas in which assistance was provided included monies toward electric and water bills, medical and prescription bills, phone and vehicle gas (for job purposes), heat, child care and funeral expenses. Each family's case is considered individually, and an assistance decision is made based on eligibility and residency criteria by the ERF Intake Coordinators. Because GVCS is a small local social service agency dependent on volunteers and contributions from the local community, all families receiving assistance must live in the Walkersville / Woodsboro feeder school area.

The Emergency Relief Fund Coordinators work closely with the other county agencies who provide financial assistance. Each caller requesting monies for a specific need is required to contact and follow through with other local agencies before receiving a pledge from the Emergency Relief Fund. Families are also required to pay a portion of the bill themselves before the ERF releases the funding to the vendor to be credited to the family's account.

Even if callers are not eligible, for example 29 callers in 2017 were from outside of the Walkersville school district, they all received referral information and advice about which agencies to call, phone numbers and a caring, listening ear.

The Emergency Relief Fund Coordinators received calls from 11 different homeless families as well as 15 families facing eviction with potential impending homelessness. For the families that met the eligibility requirements, limited motel stays and rental assistance were provided. For these especially challenging cases, there isn't much we can do to help these families out of their current situations. GVCS ERF partners with the other local agencies in Frederick by providing a few nights in a motel, and possibly some food that can be prepared in the room. Beyond those few days, we can only hope and pray that the shelters have rooms opening up, or the family has found another place to stay.

The Coordinators find that the families receiving assistance are very appreciative and grateful for being able to talk with someone who is kind, compassionate and respectful of their dignity, despite their situation. Even if the Emergency Relief Fund cannot help financially, the callers always talk with someone with a compassionate ear and receive as much information as the Coordinators can provide.

Other GVCS programs in 2017

These two programs were reported on in depth in the November newsletter, but to complete the list of GVCS programs for 2017, here is a summary:

- The Back to School Supplies Distribution program provided the needed school supplies and a backpack to 167 students from the Walkersville feeder school area.
- Funding was provided for some of the food and activities for the Summer Outreach Walkersville Area Churches (SOWAC) summer lunch program for kids at Discovery and Creamery Park.

New GVCS logo

Did you notice our new logo on the first page? It represents our mission, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors". Our appreciation and thanks to Grimes Graphics and Chad Barrows, graphic artist, for designing our new logo.

THANK YOU

Thank you to every volunteer and donor who help us serve the needs of the community in so many different ways. Just a small fraction of them are mentioned in this newsletter. Their donations of time, talent and resources enable us to provide invaluable service to our community. Together, hundreds of our neighbors are making a difference for their neighbors. Many thanks to all for your service and generosity to our community.

- ❖ **Special thanks** this month to all the volunteers and donors who made the Holiday Toy Shoppe a success. The list of the organizations and businesses who donated is posted on our website www.gladevalley.org. Many generous members and employees of these organizations and businesses donated clothes, toys and gift cards.
- ❖ **Special thanks** to the GVCS Board members, programs managers and coordinators who work year round helping neighbors in our community who are facing difficult times.
- ❖ **Thank you to the Walkersville Senior Citizens** for preparing the newsletter for mailing. We appreciate their support of GVCS. The Walkersville Senior Citizens meet each Tuesday and Thursday in the Walkersville Town Hall community room for a program and lunch at 11 am. New members are welcome! An elevator is available. Linda Spears coordinates this service project.

What You Can Do to help make a difference in 2018

Volunteer: Especially needed are Thrift Shop volunteers. Other volunteer opportunities include the Food Bank, Back to School distribution program, Holiday Toy Shoppe and the summer lunch program.

Donate: Nonperishable food items (and fresh garden produce in the summer) to the Food Bank
Gently used clean clothing (especially children's) to the Community Thrift Shop

Contributions are Welcome: GVCS, PO Box 655, Walkersville, MD 21793

For your consideration and convenience, a contribution envelope is enclosed. You may designate your donation for a specific program or allow GVCS to use it where it is most needed.

Other Ways to Support GVCS: Do you have another way you would like to support the work of GVCS? Please share your ideas with us. Call 301-845-0213 and leave a message.

Please support local businesses who support Glade Valley Community Services:

- ❖ Area grocery stores who donate so much to the Food Bank: Giant, Safeway, Trout's Market, Walmart, Wegmans
- ❖ Local businesses who contributed to the Holiday Toy Shoppe. http://gladevalley.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/thank-you-flyer-2017_3.pdf
- ❖ Leslie Baker, local Cruise Planner and Travel Consultant, will make a donation to Glade Valley Community Services for any travel booked through her agency when you reference GVCS during the booking process. Please email Leslie at labbaker@gmail.com or call 240-415-0978.

Contributions Welcome

You may designate your donations for a specific program or allow GVCS to use it where it is most needed. Contributions are tax-deductible. GVCS is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization which is funded solely by contributions and run by volunteers.

Contact us:

GVCS Offices / Emergency Relief Fund
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Food Bank Phone: 301-845-4229
Address: P.O. Box 655, Walkersville, MD 21793
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"Like" us on Facebook!

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Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

Helen Keller

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