

# Glade Valley Community Services Newsletter

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*February 2021*



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## 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

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*First and Foremost...*

**Glade Valley Community Services  
wants to extend a heartfelt**

***THANK YOU***

*to each and every person, church, organization and  
business for contributions made to our programs! It is  
through the many gifts entrusted to us that we are able  
to serve those folks in our community needing a  
helping hand.*



## **News from the Glade Valley Food Bank**

This past year, 2020, marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glade Valley Food Bank in Walkersville! Since first opening its doors in 1990, the Food Bank has continued to assist our neighbors in the greater Glade Valley area. A staff of dedicated volunteers distribute food twice a week on a year-round basis. Our mission of getting food to those who need it has not changed since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. What has changed is how we carry out that mission.

Since March of last year our Food Bank has operated as a “drive – through.” When a family arrives for a food pick up, they are greeted, basic information such as family size is obtained and they are instructed to remain in the car while waiting for their order. Our cart-pushers take it from there, filling a cart with an assortment of food items, delivering it back to the car and placing the items in the trunk. All the while, masks are worn and social distancing is followed.



**Feeding the  
Community**

Our volunteers, most of them behind the scenes, are working hard to keep the Food Bank running smoothly. On any given day you will find them picking up donations from the local grocery stores and taking them back to the Food Bank, dating and sorting all the donations that come in, pre-packing all of the non-perishable food items, breaking down cardboard for recycling, checking temperatures on freezers and refrigerators, rotating the stock by date and being there on distribution days to make sure those carts are full.

Due to generous donations to the Food Bank, we have been able to keep our shelves, refrigerators and freezers well stocked. We are very grateful for this as we have seen an increase in new clients this past year. All donations are greatly appreciated. *\*A friendly reminder to place all donated items in our blue donation box at the rear of the Town Hall – items left outside in the weather are often discarded.* Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We can be reached at 301-845-4229 or through the GVCS number above. Leave a message and your call will be returned. You can also email us at [GVFB21w@gmail.com](mailto:GVFB21w@gmail.com). Thank you, all, for your continued support!

Our greatest needs at this time are:

|                                |                       |                            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>jello and pudding mixes</b> | <b>box crackers</b>   | <b>medium size ketchup</b> |
| <b>hamburger helper</b>        | <b>black tea bags</b> | <b>hot chocolate mixes</b> |
| <b>coffee</b>                  | <b>tissues</b>        | <b>bar soap</b>            |

### **Our Emergency Relief Fund provides a “Hand UP”**

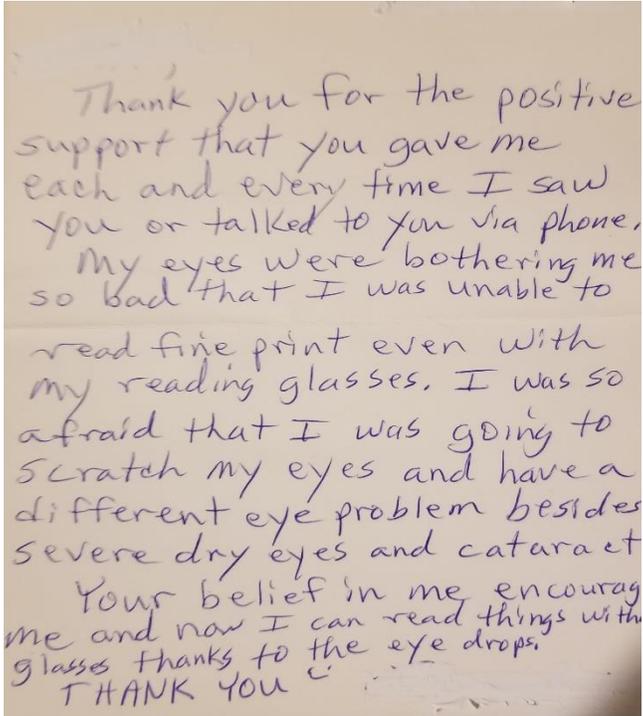
As in many ways that 2020 was unusual, we found that to be true in our Emergency Relief Fund. The Emergency Relief Fund provides financial assistance to local families when they find themselves unable to pay for all their financial obligations (bills). This program has two volunteer “case managers” who conduct an intake and determine eligibility on a case by case basis. In general, basic human needs can be eligible such as utilities, rent, heat, medical expenses, and occasionally other expenses as deemed necessary. Funds for these bills are sent directly to the vendor / supplier on behalf of the client.

Countless hours coordinating services and agencies are logged by the volunteers who act as the liaison between the client, the vendor to whom the bill is owed and to any other agencies who may also be pledging funds to help cover the specific bill(s).



2020 found many folks in situations where jobs were lost and/or income severely cut while our nation was in the pandemic “holding pattern.” At the same time, moratoriums were mandated by the government that did not allow customers’ utilities to be shut off, evictions to be ordered, etc. Consequently, we had fewer people contacting us for help paying their bills during this time. As those restrictions were lifted and bills had to be caught up and paid, we received many calls for help though many callers’ needs were well over a thousand dollars, and beyond our purview, so we referred them to the larger local agencies which had received Covid-19 impact funding to help county residents. As the year came to an end, we were able to assist 26 families with their expenses. In years past, the

Emergency Relief Fund often spent upwards of \$8000, however, this past year (2020) we spent \$5129. As the pandemic eases, we fully expect to see many more families in need reaching out for our financial help and we are ready to help with as much as we can. Even if folks are outside of our feeder school area and we are unable to offer financial assistance, callers always receive kind and respectful help, a listening ear, information and resources to which they can turn. To contact the Emergency Relief Fund, call 301-845-0213 or email [gvcs.inc@verizon.net](mailto:gvcs.inc@verizon.net). Below are two thank you notes we have received.



I would love to thank GVCS for giving me my life back. I was in such distress until I heard about your program. I have never in my life been behind on my bills before. I was beside myself wondering and praying how I was going to dig myself out of this mess. I work 3 jobs trying to make a living on my own. I am renting right now and when I started renting I had a roommate until she moved out a few months later. That started my spiral downhill. Then Covid came along and things continued to progress downhill fast. I have always been a giver, then when 3/4 of my family contracted Covid, I felt like I had to try and help when I could. Then I got sick myself and missed work. It seemed like I was drowning deeper and deeper in debt and could not get caught up.

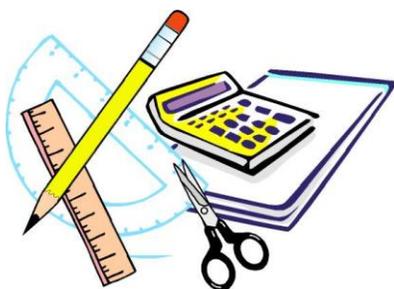
Finally, between my work colleague telling me about your services and GVCS' exceptional workers I am finally getting back on my feet again. I would love to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your financial assistance. Thank you so much...

## **Thrift Shop**



GVCS' Thrift Shop began 2020 with many donations and record sales. Churches had been contacted for scheduling volunteers throughout the year but that ended on March 14<sup>th</sup> when the Thrift Shop closed its doors due to the pandemic. Our regular Thrift Shop volunteers continued sorting donated items weekly until the shop became overwhelmed and out of space to store donated items when there were no customers nor sales outlets for the clothing. It was then that two of our three drop boxes were closed for donations. Plans for a parking lot sale were under consideration for August but then those plans were also cancelled for the safety of all involved. With safety protocols in place, the Thrift Shop finally opened up again in September by appointment only. During the Holiday Toy Shoppe, coat vouchers were given to each parent so that they could choose a free coat or sweatshirt for each family member. The Thrift Shop continues to accept donations at the one open drop box at St. Paul's Lutheran Church Parish Hall (19 W. Pennsylvania Avenue). The shop is open for customers, by appointment only, every Saturday from 10am-2pm. For appointments, please contact GVCS by phone or email (301-845-0213 / [gvcs.inc@verizon.net](mailto:gvcs.inc@verizon.net)).

## **Back To School Supplies**



Due to the COVID-19 situation and the uncertainty regarding if/when and under what conditions FCPS would reopen for the 2020-2021 school year, GVCS did not distribute school supplies to individual students in mid-August as we have done in previous years. Instead, GVCS made a monetary donation to each of the schools in the Walkersville feeder school pattern for their use in purchasing school supplies as dictated by conditions when the county reopens. Students needing assistance with school supplies should see their guidance counselor when school resumes. GVCS did conduct a local community supplies drive during July and early August and these supplies were distributed to the schools in mid-August. It is estimated that between the monetary donations and the small supply drive that the donations were enough to supply approximately 250 students.

## **Holiday Toy Shoppe**

As most of you know, our Holiday Toy Shoppe (holiday assistance program) serves children 0-18 years of age (18 year olds must still be in the school system). Registration is in October, annually, and then donors take those requests and shop for the clothing and toys. Distribution of these purchased items (which become gifts from parents) is early in December. *We thank everyone in the community who donates time and treasure to make this an incredible experience for parents and volunteers alike and brightens the hearts of many local children!*

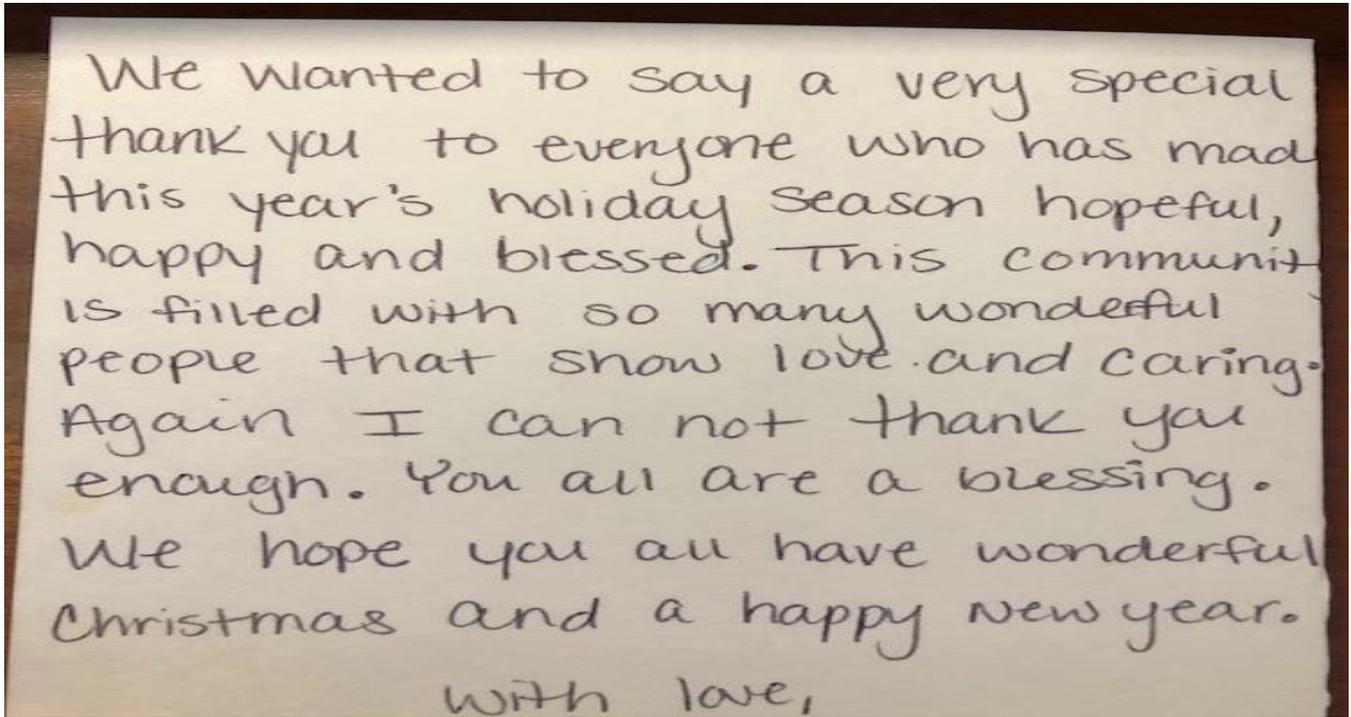


This past year, 2020, was different for sure.... We were able to have a safe registration throughout the month of October which was primarily conducted online, through our website, countless emails and there were even some in-person registrations (albeit masked and socially distant) for those not having internet access. This allowed for all of the donors, volunteers and other groups to organize, purchase and prepare all of the requested clothing and toys for all of the elementary school-aged and younger children throughout the month of November. This also includes those groups who donate books for each age group, wrapping paper, tape, cards, batteries, and homemade Christmas stockings filled with goodies, as well! Needless to say, these are monumental tasks, however our generously compassionate community gets it done every year!

The distribution day was safely orchestrated because a curbside pick-up was arranged. In lieu of coats being chosen in person, parents were given a voucher to use at our local Thrift Shop for free gently used coats or sweatshirts for each person in the household. We are happy to report that we were able to provide holiday gifts for 221 children who live in the Walkersville feeder school area! 129 of these children are in elementary school and received 2 complete outfits and 3 toys while the remaining 92 of these students are in Middle or High School and received generous (Walmart or Target) gift cards and books. In addition, many businesses and others also donate gift cards, services or items which are

randomly gifted to families. If you are interested in donating or helping with this program, please contact GVCS.

A special **Thank You** to everyone who helped make the holidays special for our families in need. We received many thank you notes telling us, and the community that helped, how grateful and blessed they felt as well as how much they appreciated everyone's time and effort. Here is one of the thank you notes we received.



### **Peg and Orley Bourland Educational Assistance Fund**

#### **(aka the Bourland Vocational Scholarship)**

The Peg and Orley Bourland Educational Assistance Fund is now awarded on a year-round basis through Glade Valley Community Services and The Community Foundation of Frederick which means we accept applications and can make awards at any time throughout the year. Its purpose is to provide need-based funds for post-secondary education in trade or technical fields (such as Cosmetology, HVAC, Culinary, Mechanical,



Computer, Construction, etc.) to help with expenses such as trade tools, tuition, testing, tutoring, supplies, etc. To be eligible, applicants must live in the Walkersville feeder school area ("school district"), provide a description of financial need, career goals, how the money will be used, and be enrolled in an accredited, post-secondary education program. *The scholarship is given to applicants who are entering a*

*trade field (not 4 year programdegrees).* The award will be paid directly to the program. Previous recipients and adults are encouraged to apply as well as high school students. Applications are due a minimum of 30 days prior to the date funds are due. Applications can be picked 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; and the FCC Career Office. The application can also be downloaded from the GVCS website at [www.GladeValley.org](http://www.GladeValley.org). For more information, call the GVCS office at 301-845-0213.

### **Summer Lunch at the Walkersville Library**

For the past 2 years, GVCS has donated funds to help with the purchase of lunch and snack items for the Walkersville Public Library's summer lunch program which offers meals and activities. Even during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Library has provided lunches for 4 days each week from May through August. This past summer (2020), the Walkersville Public Library served an average of 73 kids per day with a grand total of 2927 total lunches! The Library has stepped up to fill the need for meals for kids not able to get to the summer lunch program in the Discovery neighborhood (which was not offered during the summer of 2020).



### **Newsletter Editor Needed**

GVCS is seeking a volunteer willing to prepare our newsletter several times a year. Expenses for the newsletter will be covered. Computer and writing skills are required. Please contact GVCS if you are interested.

**Glade Valley Community Services**

**P. O. Box 655**

**Walkersville, MD 21793**