

Dear Members and Friends of ECHO,

Client requests for food dipped for a short while last year, but have now come back to our usual numbers. Our food pantry distributes more than 100 tons of food a year. The need sometimes dismays us, but, with your help, we try to keep hunger at bay in Burke and Springfield. Letting your group know about our "Stuff the Bus" event will really help our efforts!

Thank you for sharing ECHO news with your congregation, community, or organization. I hope you will find paragraphs to publish in our news below.

Gratefully,
Jane Curtis
Community Relations Chair

Stuff the Bus! To help ECHO collect food for the most vulnerable in our community, Fairfax County Government, Giant, and MV Transportation, Inc. will conduct a "Stuff the Bus" event on Monday, February 19, 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the Cardinal Forest Giant, 8320 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Look for a Fastran Bus in front of Giant where volunteers will be accepting non-perishable food donations for ECHO. Bags of some of ECHO's most-needed items will be available for sale in the store already packed and priced for donors' convenience beginning in the days before the event.

ECHO's Food Pantry is currently in need of brown paper grocery bags! We use them instead of plastic bags because they stand upright on rolling carts as volunteers fill them with canned and boxed food from the shelves. Paper bags are essential to the way volunteers organize and distribute food. Please think of asking for "paper" the next time you shop and tuck those bags into your donations for ECHO. The most needed pantry items right now are vegetable oil, spaghetti sauce, jelly, juice or milk boxes, adult pain/flu OTC medicine, and detergent.

ECHO is now limiting acceptance of computer donations to laptops only. We can no longer accept desktop computers, monitors, mice, or other non-laptop peripherals. Limited storage space compels ECHO to make this change. ECHO also currently needs large pots; AA, C, and D batteries; packs of #2 pencils; crayons (24 box); children's winter pajamas; and children's tennis shoes (sizes 3-6). We are open on weekdays 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, and 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Tuesday through Thursday evenings at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road.

Enjoy working outdoors? Looking to volunteer in the community? Combine those interests by helping ECHO with mowing, trimming, and general landscaping duties. ECHO is looking for a number of folks to help keep our landscaping neat and tidy, as a group, or working solo. If you are interested, please email volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org to get details.

For more information about ECHO on the following topics, please find these topics on our website:

Things ECHO Needs Right Now

Check us out on Facebook

Volunteer Positions Needed Right Now

Donate Money

Donations ECHO Can and Cannot Accept

ECHO's School Partnership Program