



Our Oldest Outreach Program **"THE BLESSINGS CLOSET"** Needs Your Help!

Keeping the shelves of **"THE BLESSINGS CLOSET"** stocked with enough everyday **non-food essentials** has become increasingly more difficult this past year. In this economic downturn *many more* people have come to rely on the **"CLOSET"** to supplement their household needs.

Families & individuals who have never needed this type of assistance are now coming, regularly, to request help with ***Personal Hygiene Items, Household Supplies and Baby Care Necessities...***

Recently, *Carolyn*, a resident of Carroll County, wrote of our program...

They have been here in my time of need since I have been laid off of my job. It has been hard to afford the cost of usual household items. Not sure what to do if they were not here.

Very Thankful, Carolyn

During these hard times, providing these **FREE** essentials has become especially important to our neighbors in trouble.

"THE BLESSINGS CLOSET"

is critical to helping people stretch their already limited dollars. This allows the hundreds the program serves to **better meet their basic living obligations** for housing, food, electric, employment travel and the like.

You Can Help By...

Donating an Item, or Simply Giving a Monetary Contribution.

On the Back of the Newsletter Use the Coupon for

Financial Donations and See the List of Needed Items.

To Host A Drive, Please email shepstaff@comcast.net or spencerwwjd@gmail.com.

Visit our website for
programs and fundraisers!
www.shepstaff.org
shepstaff@comcast.net

Leave a Gift...

To ensure help will continue for
those who need it
include

The Shepherd's Staff
In Your

Estate Planning!

Send A

Treasured Times
Remembrance Card...

In Honor / Memory of
Family, Friends & Associates.

All donations will be acknowledged with a
Treasured Times Card

Supporting a Charity
Can Lower Taxes

A record must be kept of each cash
contribution (such as a cancelled check or
a bank statement with the charity name,
date and amount). For contributions of
\$250 or more, you need to get
documentation from the charity. If you
donate stock it may be to your advantage
to give the shares that have appreciated
the most in value and would carry the
highest tax burden when sold.

Regardless of how you support a charity,
remember to keep all receipts in case you
plan to deduct your donations. It's also
important to ensure that the charity is
qualified for tax purposes. Visit
www.irs.gov for more information.

Our Mission

*"In a loving response to our Lord Jesus
Christ's command to feed his sheep, The
Shepherd's Staff exists to reach out to
those in crisis, to aid those in need, to
support those in trouble, to seek out and
encourage pathways to self-sufficiency,
and to be a witness for Christ in our
community."*

Assemble EASTER BASKETS for Infants through Teens



Please mark gender and age. Include an item that signifies the
"True Meaning of Easter" (coloring/storybooks, crosses, bibles, etc.).
Less candy is appreciated. Wrap in cellophane for distribution and
deliver finished basket(s) to *The Shepherd's Staff* office,
30 Carroll Street, Westminster, MD **between March 8 - 23**
MTF 10am-2pm and Th 3-7pm. For special delivery
arrangements call 410-857-5944.

Distribution is Mar 26—Apr 2 while supplies last.

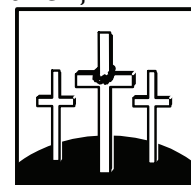
Participate in the Carroll County

HUNGER WALK—April 18th

Registration begins at 1:30pm at St. Paul's United Methodist Church,
200 Main Street, New Windsor, MD. Walk begins at 2:00pm (Route
covers 5 miles). 25% of proceeds will stay in Carroll County to
support *The Shepherd's Staff*, ACCESS Carroll, and
Carroll County Food Sunday. Contact Jim Benedict (Union Bridge
Church of the Brethren) 410-775-2717 or benedictj@verizon.net.

Join the "GOOD FRIDAY" Walk!

On April 2 the Westminster Ministerium will host a Good Friday
Walk beginning at 11am at St. John's Roman Catholic Church,
Westminster, MD and ending with a noon *Taize Style*
service at St. Paul's United Church of Christ on Bond
& Green Sts, Westminster, MD. You are welcome to join
at the beginning of the walk, along the way, or for the
noon service. Information 410-848-6330.



5K RUN / WALK

Westminster High School — April 24th

Registration begins @ 8am. Race begins @ 9:00am. Pre-
registration

by 4/10/10 is \$20 — includes t-shirt. Onsite registration \$25—
t-shirt not guaranteed. Benefits 2011 Parent Boosters Class of 2011
and *The Shepherd's Staff*. Form available at [www.carrollk12.org/
whs/boosters/classof2011/default.asp](http://www.carrollk12.org/whs/boosters/classof2011/default.asp). Contact Teresa Richardson

Belk CHARITY DAY — May 1st — 6am—10am

Purchase \$5 tickets at our office & we receive 100% of proceeds.
You may also purchase tickets at Belk Apr 23—May 1. If unable to
shop on 5/1, you are still eligible for discount, present ticket prior
to day of sale to reserve merchandise. Ticketholders will receive 20
-70% off storewide including rarely discounted brands.

Empty Bowls Feed Hungry Souls Event — May 23rd



Join West Middle School on Sunday, May 23 as we try to eliminate hunger in our community! Come between 11am—2pm and enjoy a simple meal of soup, bread, cheese and beverage while being entertained by promising local musicians. Bowls created by local pottery studios and familiar names like Chris Chester of the Baltimore Ravens will be featured items of the Silent Auction. Admission is \$5 and includes lunch, entertainment and a bowl made by students, staff and friends of West Middle. All proceeds benefit The Shepherd's Staff, Carroll Food Sunday and The Heifer Project.

Seeking Volunteers — The Lifeblood of The Shepherd's Staff

We are seeking volunteers to help us with our outreach and fund-raising activities. Your contributions of time and talent are extremely important to our success in helping needy families and children in Carroll County. Would you like to:

- Work in our office to welcome visitors/answer phones, etc.
- Help at our fund-raising events - lots of fun!
- Become a coordinator for our clothing shed - really needed!
- Gentlemen - We really need you on an occasional basis to help transport, set up and dismantle at our events.

To discuss volunteer areas of interest to you
call Kathy Reid, Volunteer Coordinator 410-875-2084.



The Perfect Mother's Day Gift —

Bring *Mam* to "The Ring In The Spring" Tea
and meet the "Duchess of Bedford"!

See Flyer enclosed

Buy a Lovely Teapot for the *Mam's* in Your Life!
Styles

Classic, Bavarian, Victorian and "Tea-for-Two"
Selections available at the "Tea" and The Shepherd's Staff office.

Get on Your Feet and Move to the Beat!

Plans are afoot for another Carroll Cabaret Dinner Show featuring the Carroll's Idols. For information call 410-857-5944 after April 15. Proceeds benefit *The Shepherd's Staff* and the Community Foundation of Carroll County. Look for details in local advertising.

Thank you Idol's for your support in 2009!

Please check our website
for more details about
programs
and fundraisers!
www.shepstaff.org

Festival of Trees

Thank you to our sponsors and
volunteers who helped raise over
\$18,000 last year.

Save the Date for
Festival 2010
Nov 26—Dec 11, TownMall
Sponsors and Volunteers Needed

Volunteer
Recognition
Blessings on "Ish" for his
faithful service every Thursday
evening and for his wonderful
musical talent he offers at our
events.

Board Members

To apply please email
shepstaff@comcast.net for
consideration.

Purse Auction

Carroll Arts Center, April 1-3, 10am
to 8pm & 2pm on Sat., Benefits
S.K.I.T., FREE, Info 410-386-3812.

Rock Ball

The Portico at St. John's in West-
minster, MD, March 20, 7pm. Bene-
fits *Voices for Children*. Info email
Karenk@getconnectedcc.org or call
410-871-0008, \$100 per person.

Carroll's Idol Semi Finals

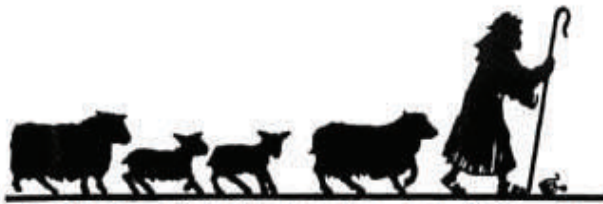
Westminster VFW Post #467,
March 18, 7pm, \$8 Adults,
\$6 Seniors/Students.

2010 Finale

Grace Hall / Grace Evangelical
Lutheran Church, April 16, 7pm, \$10
Adults, \$8 Seniors / Students, Info
410-876-5505. Both events sup-
port the Community Foundation of
Carroll County, Inc.

"Cover The Un- insured"

Events from March 22-28.
For enrollment dates and locations
go to: www.HealthyCarroll.org
Partnership for a Healthier Car-
roll County, Inc.



THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF

A Christian Outreach and Support Center

P.O. Box 127 Westminster, MD 21158 (410) 857-5944

**Non-Profit Organizations
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit # 919
Westminster, MD 21158**



The "Duchess of Bedford"

Tea, Tunes and Traditions

"Ring In The Spring" April 25, Grace Hall, 3pm

Featuring The Westminster Handbell Ensemble

Last year, 3,236 requests were filled by "THE BLESSINGS CLOSET" Program.

We Need Your Help To Stock The Shelves!

\$100

- Pull-Ups (All sizes)*
- Disposable Diapers (All sizes)*
- Baby Care Ointment, Powder
- Liquid Food Supplements
- Depends, Attends, etc. (All sizes)
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Paper Towels, Goods*
- Bath Tissue*

\$50

- Powder Laundry Detergent*
- All Purpose Cleaners*
- Bleach (small bottle)
- Feminine Supplies*
- Men's Toiletries
- Dish Washing Liquid*
- Trash Bags
- Baggies, Foil

\$25

- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- First Aid Products
- Light Bulbs (energy efficient)*
- Bar Soap/Liquid Soap
- Baking Soda/Vinegar
- Alcohol/Peroxide
- Combs/Brushes
- Washcloths

* Most Needed Items

Checks payable to The Shepherd's Staff. Donations are tax deductible.

Funds in excess of the need for this program may be used for other Shepherd's Staff programs at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Cash__ Check __ Amount Enclosed \$100__ \$50__ \$25__ Other \$_____

Name_____

Address _____

City/State/Zip_____

Mail: The Shepherd's Staff, P.O. Box 127, Westminster, MD 21158 or Drop Off: 30 Carroll Street, Westminster, MD

To reduce our costs, please share your e-mail address_____