



Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry
32 Main Street, Sparta NJ 07871
862-266-0563

St. Kateri Tekakwitha
Our Lady of the Lake
Sparta United Methodist Church
Sophia Inclusive Catholic Community

First Presbyterian Church of Sparta
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
St. Mary's Episcopal Church

August 18, 2020

Dear Friends:

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry Needs your Help

As you may have heard, with the Covid -19 pandemic, the Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry will not be hosting our annual dinner fundraiser as in years past. This has become an anticipated event that many of you have participated in and we are truly thankful for your past support.

Clearly we cannot have an organized dinner this year, but the Food Pantry needs your support more than ever. We have stepped up our efforts to help feed more people in a very challenging and difficult environment.

In addition, because of Covid 19 restrictions, the Kiwanis Club of Sparta has not been able to hold monthly food and donation collections at Stop and Shop.

Let us share a few numbers to give you a better perspective as to what is going on and why we need your help:

- Over the last four months of this pandemic we have fed 22,747 people and do not anticipate the need to lessen during the next several months. This is a thirteen (13.4) fold increase over 2019. Included in this number are 8,310 children (9.5 times the 2019 count).
- In 2019, the annual fundraising dinner contributed \$20,189, and Kiwanis cash collections in conjunction with Stop & Shop contributed \$14,750 in support of the food pantry. The dinner will not be held, and Kiwanis collections will be reduced to approximately 25% of the 2019 amount.

We are very proud of having the ability to continue our mission throughout the last several months. This would not have been possible without the tireless help of many. Also, the generosity that you have provided in supporting our annual dinner is being used to support this exponential growth and has allowed us to continue our mission of helping families and people in providing essential food to those in need. **We should all be proud of this.**

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry has always been run 100% by volunteers and operates only through donation support. Please rest assured that 100% of funds collected will be used for food and essential needs for those we serve.

Everyone agrees with the importance of providing help – and in particular, food to those in need. Let us not allow our neighbors to go hungry!

This need is immediate right now but, in addition, the holidays are right around the corner and the need will grow bigger.

Although the fundraising dinner cannot be held this year, we are asking that you make a monetary donation to help make up the money generated by this dinner.

Any amount that you can offer will be greatly appreciated:

\$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or more if you can (all donations are tax deductible- tax id 22-1861289)

All donations can be sent to:

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry 32 Main St., Sparta, NJ 07871

Thank you and we look forward to our 2021 fundraising dinner, but for now, please stay safe, keep us in your prayers as we will keep you in ours.

The Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry Board (Phone-862-266-0563)

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40*