

Dear neighbors,

Like many of you, we are closely monitoring the news and the updates from the federal and state government about the impacts of the federal government shutdown, and particularly the funds related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

We are grateful for the release of emergency funds to help feed our hungriest neighbors, but this is just a temporary fix to a larger, on-going challenge amid rising costs. Demand for food assistance at pantries has been steadily growing for months. Furloughed government employees and contractors have missed full paychecks – some of our donors now need our help. The stress of the unknown, presented by delays and potential reductions in benefits, is the very definition of food insecurity.

The Westminster Rescue Mission is working with the Maryland Food Bank, Carroll County government, and other local government offices and service agencies to coordinate the countywide response to the challenges presented by the federal government shutdown. We continue to pursue new sources of food and funding to increase the distribution of food through our 28 downstream food pantry and kitchen partners across Carroll County. We are blessed to work with this network of Carroll County neighbors who are committed to helping their neighbors.

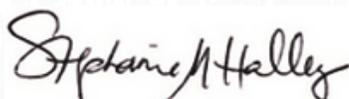
If you are food insecure – unsure how you will be able to feed yourself and your family – visit our website and use the Carroll County Free Food Resource Guide to find free meals and groceries available in your community. [Help is available.](#)

So many of you are asking how you can help. THANK YOU. Here are a few ways to meet the need in our community:

- Your donation dollars will help us secure and distribute nutritious food to our neighbors in communities across Carroll County. [Donate Here](#)
- Your time can make a difference. We have weekday opportunities available for volunteers; if you are interested, email volunteer@WestminsterRescueMission.org.
- Donated food items can help. Use the Free Food Resource Guide to locate a pantry in your community; they can tell you what your hungry neighbors need the most.

Together, we will take care of each other. We pray for strength for those who are struggling with food insecurity, and with gratitude for the community that steps up to take care of their neighbors in their time of need.

Together in Service,



Stephanie Halley
CEO, Westminster Rescue Mission

