For Immediate Release:

Goochland County VA:

GoochlandCares Annual Community Food Drive Successful Beyond Measure.

In April and May of this year, Goochland residents participated in the GoochlandCares Annual Community Food Drive to help stock the organization’s Food Pantry. Thanks to the response of the community, we exceeded our goal of 35,000 lbs. and collected a whopping 43,036 lbs! “Our shelves are full for the first time in months,” said Doug Chiles, GoochlandCares Food Pantry manager.

Fortunately, the increased supply will address the rise in county residents experiencing food insecurity. The Food Pantry has seen a 30 percent increase in clients needing food since this time in 2022, and the number of clients needing food continues to grow.

“We are grateful for all the generous people who so enthusiastically responded and participated in this effort,” said Doug. “Volunteers took charge of coordinating and collecting food.”

Volunteer Neighborhood Captains greatly contributed to the food drive’s success. Grocery bags with lists of needed items were handed out in multiple county neighborhoods. Then on a specified day the full bags were collected by Neighborhood Captains and delivered to the Food Pantry. “The neighborhoods where we delivered and collected grocery bags of food were very responsive and generous,” said Heidi Hall, a GoochlandCares volunteer.

Neighborhoods were not the only participants in the Food Drive. Churches, businesses, and civic organizations also actively collected food and made generous contributions to help stock the Food Pantry. A notable example is our community partner, the Goochland Rotary. Members organized food drives at both Goochland Food Lions. Their dedicated efforts alone led to the collection of an impressive 2413 pounds of food.

To effectively manage the influx of donations, more volunteers assisted in sorting, carrying, and shelving the donated goods in the Food Pantry. Doug emphasized the indispensable role played by these volunteers, describing them as the heart and soul of the Food Pantry.

In addition to the food, over $30,000 was donated, which was an all-time high. Between the food donations and the funds raised, the Food Pantry can continue to feed more families in need of food and household goods. Thank you, Goochland residents, for helping us care for our neighbors in need!

If you want to get involved, please contact Dominic Alexander at 804-556-0400 or dalexander@GoochlandCares.org

GoochlandCares is a private, 501(c)(3), non-profit organization that provides basic human services and health care to our Goochland neighbors in need. GoochlandCares envisions an equitable community in which all people have their basic needs met, empowering them to lead lives of self-dignity and well-being. Contact Adair Frayser, a frayser@goochlandcares.org. Visit us at www.GoochlandCares.org. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/goochlandcares.