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For Immediate Release

Goochland County VA:

GoochlandCares Food Pantry sees spike in need for food as pandemic SNAP benefits expire.

The supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of needy families and individuals. In the last three years households and individuals eligible for food assistance received an additional sum each month as part of a pandemic-era increase to combat hunger. The additional SNAP benefits ended on February 28th causing recipients to lose the additional pandemic income. SNAP benefit amounts are based on a household's net income but on average a family of three could lose nearly \$285 per month from their supplemental food budget due to the decrease in their benefits.

Because of the SNAP benefits reduction and inflation, the GoochlandCares Food Pantry has seen a rise in the need for food. "Usually, we see 200-210 households a week. Since the SNAP benefit reduction at the end of February, the need for food has increased visits to 240-250 visits per week," reports Doug Chiles, GoochlandCares Food Pantry manager.

"There have been many generous food donations during our winter months. We are ever grateful to those individuals and organizations who have been able to help keep our shelves stocked. We want to keep this momentum going so we can keep up with the demand for food," stated Doug.

GoochlandCares is hosting an annual spring food drive on April 22nd. However, the Food Pantry needs food until the drive. "April 22nd is a month away," says Doug. "We need nonperishable items, personal, and household supplies now more than ever." Please consider donating to the Food Pantry to help a neighbor in need. The Food Pantry always accepts food donations from individual citizens, businesses, churches, schools, civic organizations, neighborhoods, and others.

Donations may be dropped off at our location at 2999 River Road West. A staff member or volunteer will accept your donation or you can place donations in bins/boxes at the far end of the building just outside the Food Pantry.

We accept Food Donations: Monday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Tuesday, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, Wednesday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Friday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Saturday/Sunday: only canned items accepted – drop off bins are located outside Food Pantry door.



Food Pantry shopping hours: Monday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Tuesday, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, Wednesday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Thursday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm, Friday, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

If you have questions or need further information about donations or organizing a food drive, please contact Dominic Alexander, Director of Volunteer Engagement at 804-556-0400, dalexander@GoochlandCares.org or Doug Chiles, Food Pantry Manager at 804-556-0201, dchiles@GoochlandCares.org You can also visit our website at www.GoochlandCares.org

Pictured left to right, Doug Chiles and Dominic Alexander

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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 persons have their basic needs met, empowering them to lead lives of self-dignity and well-being. Contact Adair Frayser, afrayser@goochlandcares.org. Visit us at www.GoochlandCares.org. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/goochlandcares.