

SMILE

Thrift Store and Food Pantry

**Annual Report
2022**

Smile Makes
Individual
Lives Exciting



"If you have two coats," he (Jesus) replied, 'give one to the poor. If you have extra food, give it away to those who are hungry,'" Luke 3:11 NIV

President's Note:

SMILE was formed in 1991 by an ecumenical group of clergies and lay persons in Calvert County to address financial needs of the community. Most of our revenue comes from our thrift store staffed by volunteers.

Our food pantry served all that requested assistance. With government programs providing nonperishable food, we were able to increase weekly portions for families in need. In 2023 these government programs will be severely reduced or eliminated.

Our SMILE services include over 15 separate programs, as well as monthly visits by Calvert Library Bookmobile, Mobile Career Center and a Mobile Health Van. In 2022, we focused on direct ministry programs including financial assistance for rent, mortgage and utilities to keep people in their homes. We increased assistance in these areas by over 2-1/2 times making these programs among our most important last year.

Thank you! Thank you for a great year for SMILE! With the continued support of our volunteers, community, and sponsoring area churches we were open for business despite the continuing impact of COVID, RSV, and influenza. Your donations made it possible to serve those in need and amounted to almost 80% of our total revenue.

Bill Brier

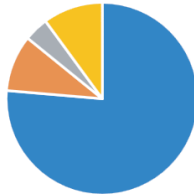


Mission: To provide food, clothing and financial aid to those in our community in need. We are dedicated to treating everyone with dignity and respect and we welcome all clients without judgment.

SMILE Finances

Direct Ministry 76% - Administration 10% - Utilities 4% - Maintenance 10%

SMILE Expenditures 2022



■ Direct Ministry ■ Administration
■ Utilities ■ Repairs and Maint

Volunteer Opportunities

- Distributing food
- Accepting donations
- Sorting donations
- Processing books
- Maintaining and stocking
- Jewelry counter
- Processing electronics
- Receptionist
- Recycling
- Office work
- Maintenance
-and everything in between

“After retiring from my first career, I was looking for a new career where I could continue to help people! I found SMILE (or it found me!). What a pleasure it is to be able to “lend a hand” to all those we serve! They have given back to me much more than what I’ve done for them in my years!! The smile on a mother’s face through her tears when her little girl was given a new bike for Christmas! A families’ thanks when given clothing, etc. when they suffered a house fire. And so many, many, more memories! And besides that, my co-workers are the best!” B (age 94)

SMILE Ecumenical Ministries serves as such a valuable partner and community resource for the Calvert County Department of Social Services and our customers. Its thrift store offers volunteer opportunities and an encouraging environment for individuals who are seeking to build crucial professional experiences. It is always a pleasure to collaborate with SMILE's dynamic staff and leadership. They continuously respond to our requests with a resounding, "Yes, how can we help?", and as a result, Calvert County benefits greatly.

Wendy Tonic, Community Coordinator, Calvert County DHS

FOOD PANTRY

Anyone in need of food is welcome to come once a week for a prepacked bag of canned and non-perishable food, along with a selection of fresh produce, meats and bread as available. We offer additional food for holiday celebrations at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.

16,000+ people fed

260,000 lbs. of food distributed

73 Food Pantry volunteers

4500+ volunteer hours



"I am on disability and the pantry helps greatly – even though Social Security payments went up, all other expenses go up too. I rely on the pantry to help."

"When I came here, I looked around and saw everyone smiling. And when I left, I was smiling too! A very appropriate name!"

HOMELESS PREVENTION

In 2022, the homeless prevention program had its best year ever! The program was blessed to have increased funding. As a result, the homeless prevention program served 44 households and prevented 172 individuals from becoming homeless in 2022.

A family of six was couch surfing due to their electricity being shut off after the mother was unable to work due to a health issue. SMILE worked with SMECO to get this family in their home before Christmas.

"I am beyond grateful for this opportunity to get back on track and ahead of my finances again"

A family of four lost their home after losing wages due to COVID. Once they recovered and returned to work SMILE covered move in costs to get this family into a beautiful home.

THRIFT STORE

We survive on our community donating their unwanted items which we can sell.
More than \$38,500 in monetary donations were also received. Thank you!



\$6,800 in free clothing was given away to those in need

Children of clients receive free clothing every quarter

135 Thrift Store Volunteers served over **28,750** volunteer hours

Recycling at SMILE

\$920 received for recycling metal

\$7,500 received for recycling clothing and shoes



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Clients can complete a separate application for assistance, which is reviewed by a case manager. The information is vetted, and appropriate funding is allocated.

45 families received help with mortgages and rent

133 families received emergency financial assistance in **2022**

88 families received help with utilities and other expenses

Special Times of the Year

EASTER

Additional food was distributed



BACK TO SCHOOL

159 backpacks filled with school supplies were distributed to children

THANKSGIVING

213 turkeys and food boxes were distributed



CHRISTMAS SHOP and CHRISTMAS DAY

210 children received photos with Santa, a gift of their choice and a treat. Solomons Rescue Squad allowed children to explore their equipment. A luncheon held at the American Legion served 186 turkey meals. Many of these meals were delivered or were for takeout.



Baccalaureate Service for Patuxent High School



Annual Father Alexander Gala



Rev. Irvin Beverly is a founding member of SMILE. His service efforts to all in the community were celebrated at the Father Alexander Gala in April. Held by OLSS, Rev. Beverly is the first non-Catholic to receive this award.

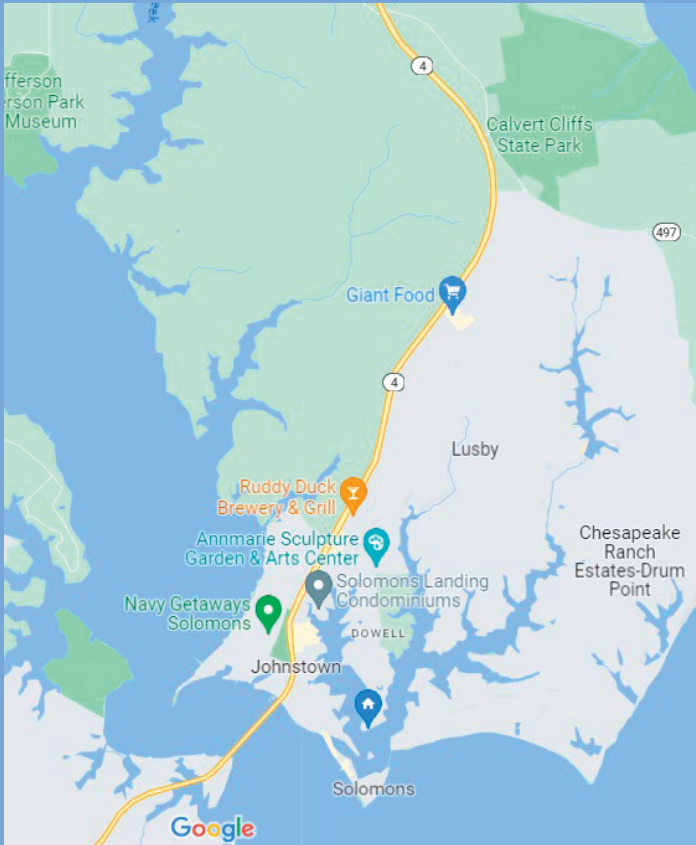
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