



# Food Pantry News

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**Our mission: To provide emergency food assistance to families of Plainfield who find themselves in need..**

## SNAP BENEFITS AT RISK

### Star Fish is Ready!

We join with many others to condemn the government decision to suspend SNAP benefits during the government shutdown. The shutdown is over, but the need for food is not going away. And we can't trust that SNAP will be fully-funded or remain unchanged.

We expect that many of the families we serve benefit from the SNAP program, which provides a minimal amount each month to help stave off starvation. We saw 120 families receive bags of food at our 11/13 walk-up Plainfield Food Security Project food distribution.

Our email campaign to alert the Friends of Star Fish resulted in donations of over \$10,000 to help us meet the anticipated increased need. We will have bags of groceries ready and will continue to provide them as long as necessary.

Thank you for your generosity and your caring hearts.

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## Newsletter

We welcome any  
comments or  
suggestions. Email us!

Secretary@  
starfishplainfield.org

## Preparing for Thanksgiving

Our friends at Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence gave us exciting news recently. They expect their annual food collection, a partnership of several churches and agencies, will surpass the collections of the past few years and be back to pre-Covid levels.

This is truly great news! Their annual donation helps fill our pantry and our storeroom with the needed foods that go out each week to our families in need. Our meager list of foods that we provide is supplemented by all kinds of “extras” that thoughtful people donate.

We are so grateful for this delivery on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. It is a labor-intensive day filled with joy!



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Our “back room” is ready for the special delivery (left). We’ve placed pallets along the perimeter and will have a row down the middle of the room, also.

The pallets keep the food off the floor as required by health regulations.

The food in the picture at right was there on September 18, almost all of it purchased from either Aldi or ShopRite, and now almost all of it gone. When you make up 100 to 120 bags of food every two weeks, it goes out fast!

## Faith Lutheran Food Delivery in Prior Years



The Faith Lutheran community rents the box truck and brings along their own roller ramp to help unload quickly.



Boxes of food are sent down the roller ramp from the truck into the basement (far left) where eager volunteers (above) wait to take the boxes to tables to be sorted. At center, a helper stocks our pasta shelves with incoming pasta of all types!



The folks at Wagner Farm Arboretum liked our Egg-o-Mat donors page and refurbished it to look like new! The machine does not dispense eggs, however, and any funds deposited in the coin slot are considered donations. Compare it to the old one at [www.starfishplainfield.com/eggs.php](http://www.starfishplainfield.com/eggs.php).



**We are GOLD**—Just a reminder that we are now a 4 Star Charity at Charity Navigator and have achieved the Gold standard at Candid, assuring our donors that your donations are used wisely. We really do our best for the people we serve. Use the QR code to donate.



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### Donate at

[tinyurl.com/starfishplfdinc](http://tinyurl.com/starfishplfdinc)

Or

[www.starfishplainfield.org](http://www.starfishplainfield.org)

Visit our website, use the QR code in this newsletter, or click on the Contact or Donate menu item, and then click on the "Donate" button as shown below.



## What is Star Fish?

*We are a group of volunteers from Plainfield and the surrounding area who belong to a tax exempt, 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation in existence since 1971. Star Fish operates three days each week throughout the year, preparing and distributing grocery food orders to an average of thirty to thirty-five families in need each week.*

*Our primary function is to maintain the food pantry. Our volunteers pack and deliver grocery food orders to clients who have been referred to us by local social service agencies. Most of these agencies are listed on our website Partners page. We also prepare and help give out 150 bags of food twice a month at the walkup Plainfield Food Security Project.*

*Using a referral system helps us better manage our resources. These agencies vet the client to help assure that our limited resources are given to those truly in need. Our team also prepares special food gift cards for 160 families at Easter, Thanksgiving, and at Christmas. This enables the families to buy food that is appropriate to their heritage and beliefs.*

## Food We Provide To Those In Need—Items & Amounts Vary Based on Family Size

- 1 Package of frozen meat
- 1 Loaf of bread
- 1 lb of Pasta
- 1 Pasta Sauce
- 1 bag rice
- 2 Cans Soup
- 2 Macaroni and Cheese
- 1 Small bag of tea bags
- 1 Jar Peanut Butter
- 1 Jar Jelly
- 1 Can of Fruit or Jar of Applesauce
- 2 Cans Vegetables
- 2 Can of Tuna
- 2 Cans of Beans
- 1/2 Dozen Eggs
- 2 box of cereal (or 4 Instant Breakfast Cereal envelopes for single persons)
- 1 dry or shelf-stable milk
- Paper goods, cleaning products, and personal care items when available



You can donate any of these items. Just contact us (info above) for best drop-off days and times. We can even arrange to pick it up!

Too busy to do extra shopping? Donate instead and we'll buy it. Just go to [www.starfishplainfield.org](http://www.starfishplainfield.org) and click on the "Donate" button.