

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INC.
PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2007
(PRESENTED ON FEBRUARY 26, 2008 BY THE PRESIDENT, PHILIP PAPPAS)**

Once again, we gather to celebrate another year in the life of the Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program. Throughout the past 33 years, we continue to be the agency which addresses the immediate, emergency and temporary financial needs that the citizens of our county sometimes find themselves. As always, we continue to promote our original philosophy of stressing personal responsibility and self-sufficiency, while maintaining the dignity necessary to become or continue as productive, contributing members of our society.

As we review the 2007 statistics, we find the number of cases served was 1,897 representing 5,311 individuals, an increase of 25% from the previous year's numbers. However, our total dollar expenditures of \$146,273.00 were down approximately \$21,000. This was likely due to our curtailing of financial assistance for most of last February due to lack of available funds at that time. The 33-year total for MCEAP expenditures is now \$2,685,917 representing 50,900 cases or 145,915 individuals.

As in the past, sizeable contributions continued to come in from area churches, St. Paul United Methodist Church's Christmas Wrap Project, Our Savior Lutheran Church's Potato Festival, and matching funds from Thrivent for Lutherans. This year we were also aided by a sizeable increase in individual donations. Additional funding sources include the United Way of Montgomery County, Floyd and Radford, the Trolinger Trust and FEMA.

Our food bank was enhanced by food drives from numerous schools, churches, civic organizations and individuals. The U.S. Postal Service also collected 4.5 tons of food during its annual food drive. A major financial boost to our food bank was the annual flex-out program sponsored by Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity at Virginia Tech. Last year the fraternity raised more than \$14,000.00 and we used this money to make needed food purchases for the pantry throughout the year.

The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors continue to fund MCEAP's one paid staff position along with additional funding to pay for the office space we use at New River Community Action and to cover some indirect costs associated with the MCEAP position. We thank the Board and County Administrator for their continued support.

Those of you that were here last year will remember that MCEAP was facing a financial crisis. Since donations were not keeping abreast of the financial needs of our clients, we were getting dangerously close to depleting our reserve funds. Therefore, on February 7, 2007, MCEAP for the first time in its existence, halted all financial aid to clients.

This news was made public through word of mouth, TV and newspaper articles, describing our plight. The immediate financial support of the community was overwhelming and heart warming. Within three weeks, sufficient funds had been collected to once again provide emergency financial assistance to the needy of Montgomery County.

Just to give you a brief overview of the community's generosity, individual donations increased from approximately \$10,000 in 2006 to more than \$58,000 and church donations increased from approximately \$44,000 in 2006 to more than \$79,000.

Obviously, donations can vary from year to year, but hopefully, we will be able to maintain a similar amount this year in order to meet the ever-increasing demand on our services.

Again, thanks to all of you that have helped to make life a little easier for thousands of needy individuals in our county.

God bless you for your help and for caring to help others.