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**Request for \$5,000 of level funding from non-profit funds
Effingham, March 2018 Town Meeting**

Freedom Food Pantry

The Freedom Food Pantry was established in 1992 to serve those families in need from the towns of Freedom, Effingham, and Ossipee. (Attached are statistics showing the number of families served by month and town thru September, 2017 and all of 2016). The Food Pantry is located in the basement of the First Christian Church of Freedom, 12 Elm Street, Freedom, New Hampshire. The church provides the space, electricity, heat and office supplies to the Food Pantry at no charge. No funding is received from the church. All funds received are spent on purchasing food. The pantry operates using only volunteers. The pantry has no paid staff.

The Freedom Food Pantry receives food from different sources. The first source is to receive USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Emergency Food Assistance, at no cost from the government. In 2017, we received 35 – 39 cases every two months. The second source of food is to purchase food from the New Hampshire Food Bank (NHFB) in Manchester, NH. The NHFB struggles to keep their food supply shelves stocked and continues to have funding problems. Supermarket checkout scanners have eliminated over-ordering thru their computer systems, thereby less overstock is donated to NHFB. In order to maximize NHFB resources, NHFB has imposed case limits. Also, some foods are no longer available or others are available either so infrequently or on a different order and delivery cycle that the Freedom Food Pantry cannot get them. The pantry is then forced to buy these food items at local grocery stores at higher prices. (Note: This NHFB delivery schedule is once per month to a drop site in West Ossipee.) Food prices can be impacted by the drought in the mid-west and California which continues into the sixth year and the major hurricanes in 2017.

Further, for 2017 Thanksgiving season, NHFB will only have turkeys available but no other foods considered part of the traditional Thanksgiving meal. (The NHFB does not provide anything for Christmas meals.) The pantry must purchase what many call "all the trimmings"-vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, etc locally at higher prices. Another food item that is increasingly difficult to obtain from NHFB is meat. Because of this, the pantry has increasingly relied on what was always considered option three--- purchasing needed items locally, which is the most expensive. Not only is it more expensive to provide food by purchasing locally, it is particularly expensive to buy meat. The Pantry is spending approximately \$1,197 per month and project expenses to be \$14,365 by year end 2017.

Funding for the Freedom Food Pantry has always been through donations. The donations that we receive are primarily from the residents of Freedom or from people who have ties to Freedom. Additionally, the Freedom Food Pantry has a mutual fund established and managed by the Finance Committee of the First Christian Church of Freedom. In 2017, the

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pantry received non-profit funding from Ossipee, Effingham and Freedom. Both monetary and food donations to the Freedom Food Pantry fluctuate and are not predictable sources of funding.

Additionally, the 10 year Farm Aid Bill was passed in 2014 and \$8.7 Billion was cut from the Federal Food Stamp program known as SNAP. This cut to the SNAP program has impacted our food pantry clients. The Lakeview Neuro Rehab Hospital in Effingham closed in August 2015 which put 400+ local residents out of work. The job market in this area has not recovered from this closing. Also, the annual Social Security/Disability cost-of-living (COLA) adjustment in 2017 was .3%, the smallest increase since the mid 1970's.

Effingham client participation levels are from 23% to 37% of the total clients served on any given Saturday. Based on current food prices, the pantry will need continued support to feed Effingham clients next year.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important mission in our area.

Doris Sirois, Co-Director
539-1339

Doris Sirois
10/26/17

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FREEDOM FOOD PANTRY
(Serving Freedom, Effingham, Ossiipee)
Number of Families Served by Month and Town

Notes:	JAN 2017	FEB 2017	MAR 2017	APR 2017	MAY 2017	JUN 2017	JUL 2017	AUG 2017	SEP 2017	OCT 2017	NOV 2017	DEC 2017	YTD 2017
	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families
	8	10	7	10	11	10	7	9	12	0	0	0	84
	29%	36%	24%	24%	37%	37%	23%	35%	27%	0	0	0	29.6%
	2	2	5	8	4	6	6	8	10	0	0	0	51
	7%	7%	17%	19%	13%	22%	20%	31%	23%	0	0	0	18.0%
	12	13	13	18	13	9	14	7	14	0	0	0	113
	43%	46%	45%	43%	43%	33%	47%	27%	32%	0	0	0	39.8%
	5	3	4	3	1	2	2	2	7	0	0	0	29
	18%	11%	14%	7%	3%	7%	7%	8%	16%	0	0	0	10.2%
	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
	4%	0%	0%	5%	3%	0%	3%	0%	2%	0	0	0	2.1%
	18	16	17	23	15	11	17	9	22	0	0	0	148
	64%	57%	59%	55%	50%	41%	57%	35%	50%	0	0	0	52.1%
^Miscellaneous Towns	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
				2%									0.4%
GROSS TOTALS	28	28	29	42	30	27	30	26	44	0	0	0	284

GROSS TOTAL FOR MONTH INCLUDES SPECIAL MEALS FOR HOLIDAYS (as shown above)

*** Note: Food Pantry Closed for Old Home Week, Thanksgiving Weekend, Christmas and New Year's Day

@ Note: Low usage due to weather and driving conditions

^Miscellaneous Towns = Clients served from towns outside our serving area

Percentages are based on portions of the gross totals for each month and are rounded off to the nearest whole number

of Hams for Easter

- Effingham 8
- Freedom 12
- Clr. Ossiipee 11
- Ossiipee 4
- West Ossiipee 2
- 37

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FREEDOM FOOD PANTRY
(Serving Freedom, Effingham, Ossiipee)
Number of Families Served by Month and Town

	JAN 2016	FEB 2016	MAR 2016	APR 2016	MAY 2016	JUN 2016	JUL 2016	AUG 2016	SEP 2016	OCT 2016	NOV 2016	THANKSGIVING	DEC 2016	CHRISTMAS	YTD 2016
Notes:	@	@	@					***			***				
TOWN	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Families	# of Meals	# of Families	# of Meals	# of Families
EFFINGHAM	14 29%	13 33%	12 34%	17 38%	9 32%	10 26%	11 31%	11 37%	13 36%	17 34%	8 31%	12 20	16 32%	13 13	176 33.0%
FREEDOM	5 10%	5 13%	5 14%	6 13%	3 11%	6 16%	5 14%	3 10%	6 17%	6 12%	4 15%	3 7	5 10%	4 4	66 12.4%
CENTER OSSIPEE	23 48%	16 41%	11 31%	14 31%	9 32%	15 39%	13 37%	11 37%	12 33%	18 36%	9 35%	13 20	22 44%	15 15	201 37.6%
OSSIPEE	6 13%	4 10%	6 17%	6 13%	5 18%	5 13%	5 14%	5 17%	4 11%	6 12%	4 15%	5 9	4 8%	4 4	69 12.9%
WEST OSSIPEE	0 -	1 3%	1 3%	1 2%	2 7%	2 5%	1 3%	0 -	1 3%	3 6%	1 4%	2 4	3 6%	2 2	20 3.7%
subtotal	29 60%	21 54%	18 51%	21 47%	16 57%	22 58%	19 54%	16 53%	17 47%	27 54%	14 54%	20 33	29 58%	21 21	290 54.3%
Miscellaneous Towns	-	-	-	1 2%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	-	-	2 0.4%
GROSS TOTALS	48	39	35	45	28	38	35	30	36	50	26	36 61	50	38 38	534

GROSS TOTAL FOR MONTH INCLUDES SPECIAL MEALS FOR HOLIDAYS (as shown above)

*** Note: Food Pantry Closed for Old Home Week, Thanksgiving Weekend, Christmas and New Year's Day

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Operations Expenses*

Description	2016	2017	2018
	Previous	Current	Next
	Fiscal year	Fiscal year	Fiscal year
		(thru Sept 2017)	
Food Storage & non food items (1)	\$ 1,639.67	\$ 904.39	\$ 1,205.00
Volunteer transportation (2)	\$ 532.74	\$ 302.10	\$ 405.00
Food (3)	\$ 12,426.39	\$ 6,495.42	\$ 13,265.00

Notes:

(1) Toilet paper, paper towels, toothpaste, bar soap, deodorant, freezer bags (\$904.39)

(2) Gas for vehicles used to pick up food from NH Food Bank or food shopping trips remains low in 2017 because NHFB delivered food orders to Tramway Plaza in West Ossipee, with a delivery fee.

Also, the volunteers have donated their time and trucks. Since the amount of food available from the food bank is limited and the volume of food purchased at grocery stores increases, the number of grocery store trips may increase travel expenses.

This will increase the cost of travel reimbursement.

(3) Food costs continue to increase in 2017. The NHFB has lost several significant donors. The drought continues throughout the major farm areas in the US and major hurricanes can have an impact on food prices.

Grocery stores have better inventory control which has impacted donations to NHFB.

The NHFB will make tukeys available for 2017. All the "fixings" for a traditional dinner will need to be purchased locally. (The NHFB does not provide anything for Christmas meals.)

Additionally, the 10 year Farm Aid Bill was passed in 2014 and \$8.7 Billion was cut from the federal food stamp program known as SNAP. This cut to the SNAP program has impacted our food pantry clients. The Lakeview Neuro Rehab Hospital in Effingham closed in August 2015 which put 400+ local residents out of work. Also, the annual Social Security/Disability cost-of-living (COLA) was .3% in 2017, the smallest increase since the mid 1970's.

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2018 Budget Talking Points for Effingham

Family size ranges from 1 to 10

Average family size is 4.5

Number of families from Ossipee ranges from 7 to 17 over a 12-month period as of September 2017.

Average number of families served per month is 13 in 2017 and projected to be 15 in 2018 due to federal program cuts and Lakeview Neuro Rehab Hospital closing/local job market.

For the purposes of discussion, 4.5 people per average family times 15 families is approximately 68 people per month from Effingham.

Using this simple math, approximately 816 Effingham people are served by the Freedom Food Pantry over the course of the year (12 months X 68 people per month). Many are families that are served for multiple weeks or months.

$\$5,000.00 / 816 \text{ people} = \$6.13 \text{ per person per year}$

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