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Food for Thought

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Welcome!

Welcome to our first newsletter. Through this newsletter, we hope to keep you informed by letting you know what is going on at WUMCO, how we help your neighbors, and how *you* may help us.

If you are receiving this newsletter by email, it is because you requested it when voting for a scarecrow last year during the contest leading up to the 2013 WUMCO Walk and Fall Festival. If, at any time, you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, email us and we will remove you from the distribution list.

COMING SOON!

One of our local businesses has been busy building a new donation box for WUMCO. The box will be available 24/7, hopefully helping to make food donations easier for those folks who are out of town all day. Keep your eyes open on our web site and Facebook page for details when the box makes its debut.

Please continue to make food donations whenever possible. Our pantry has been very busy this winter and we have been struggling to keep the shelves stocked.

WUMCO SERVES

Don't Judge a Book.....

We have heard it more times than we can count: "They can't be that bad off if they can afford (insert personal measure of wealth here)" As hard as it is to accept, we all judge folks by what they wear, where they live, or what they drive. These are, after all, outward indications of what our society deems a very private but important matter: wealth (or lack thereof). When presented with one of these apparent discrepancies, I often tell folks that appearances can be deceiving. Then I tell them about "Copia"(named changed to protect privacy).

Copia is a single mom. She has a special needs four year old that makes it difficult to work a full time job. She has a college education. She lives with her son in a beautiful home, drives a nice car and wears nice clothes. Yet she needs our help. Copia is in the process of obtaining a divorce from her abusive husband. She has an order of protection to keep her and her son safe. The mortgage on the house is paid for by her estranged husband - under court order. Her car was purchased and paid for when they were together. Her clothes are nice, but not new - she also had those before her life fell apart. She is trying to work from home so she can care for her son. She has no family that is able to help. We have assisted Copia with a couple of small utility bills, but mostly she uses the food pantry so she can pay those bills herself. By all *outward appearances*, Copia does not need us. But she does.

The Heart of WUMCO

Jane Stearns. Most folks in the area which WUMCO serves have heard the name at one time or another. What many do not realize, however, is that not only did Jane help found WUMCO (originally dubbed Poolesville Help) some 45 years ago, but she has never received any monetary compensation for her tireless work on the behalf of the less fortunate citizens of Western Upper Montgomery County. She has, however, given more than most realize.

More time. While WUMCO is open for a regular 40 hour work week (M-F, 9-5), there are those who will call before and after those hours - or on the weekend. Jane will often tell them that it is outside regular hours and then proceed to help them anyway. The phone also has an answering machine for messages, but she might just answer that "off" hours call anyway. I am sure it has been that way for 45 years.

More space. WUMCO offices are located in Jane's house. Instead of a "reading corner" with a comfy chair and bookshelf or a "conversational grouping" of sofa, loveseat, chair and coffee table, Jane's "living room" contains 3 desks, file cabinets, fax machine, phones, and more - the trappings of any regular business office. The garage is full of shelving, freezers and refrigerators to house the WUMCO pantry.

More money. Jane does not get paid by WUMCO, but she pays *for* WUMCO. WUMCO does not pay any rent or utility bills. Jane pays the electric bill - including the high cost of keeping four freezers and a refrigerator running as well as the office equipment used to conduct WUMCO operations.

More energy. At nearly 87 years of age, Jane still has more energy than many folks half her age! She is still actively involved in the day to day operations of WUMCO. She schedules transportation and packs food for clients, in addition to answering the phones when the part-time executive assistant is not in the office. She is on the Board of Directors and acts as secretary for the meetings. She is also very involved in and performs volunteer administrative duties for her church.

Her Life. Why does Jane do all this? What prompted her to start down the path that has lead her to 45+ years of service to the WUMCO community? I believe that she has a love for people that cannot be restrained - WUMCO has been her expression of that love. Jane puts it this way: "I believe I was put here to do this and that's what I have done. You can call it a religious thing and that is what it is."

Whatever the reason, Jane is the heart of WUMCO and we are grateful!!!

Jane's Jubilee

We would like to thank the following special donors and volunteers from the 2013 Holiday Program:

Valaree Dickerson	Kevin Beliveau	Clay McCarty	Mary Beliveau
Christa Mobley	Doris Bennett	John Mobley	Mark Corfman
Norm Spencer	Susan Corfman	Carly Stoliker	Tonya Dorsey
Glenn Tallia	Suzanne Tallia	James Lee	Mary Jane Lee & Family
James Venerable	Covanta	I.O.O.F. Lodge #97	Boyds Presbyterian Church
Monocacy Lion's Club	Smithers-Avanza	Zachrel Family	Corporate Network Services
Stoliker Family	Dickerson United Methodist Church		Poolesville Presbyterian Church
St. Mary's Catholic Church		John Poole Middle School Leo's Club	
St. Peter's Parish Episcopal Church		Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church Youth	
Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church		West Montgomery Charge United Methodist Women	
Wheels of Thunder Motorcycle Club of Silver Spring			

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Ever wonder how you can help WUMCO? Here's the 411:

- ▶ Donate (\$): Visit our Web Site to donate with Pay Pal or mail a check to: PO Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837.
- ▶ Donate food: Unexpired, non perishable food items are always needed. Items may be dropped off at one of the donation sites in Poolesville: Crafts-a-Plenty or Town Hall.
- ▶ Volunteer...
 - ▶ 1) ...to drive. Drivers take clients to doctor or social service appointments. If you are interested in doing this, please call the WUMCO office for details.
 - ▶ 2) ...to hold a food drive. Drives are held by various organizations and individuals throughout the year. Even small neighborhood drives have a big impact on our ability to serve our clients well through our food pantry. If you hold a food drive, please contact the office to coordinate delivery to the pantry.
 - ▶ 3) ...to work at a WUMCO fundraising event. While WUMCO does not hold any of it's own events, we participate in Poolesville Day and can always use volunteers for this event. Also, there are other local events sponsored by various organizations, such as the WUMCO Walk and Fall Festival, which raise money for WUMCO. Look for these events to be advertised and volunteer to help out - by helping them you are helping us!!



Jane Stearns (left) and Carly Stoliker (right) work to stock the WUMCO pantry shelves.

Beans for Basketball?

Who says donating food has to be a mundane task? Certainly not the Knights of Columbus!! On March 8th, the Knights of Columbus- Our Lady of Fatima #6901 held a food drive for WUMCO, disguised as a 3 vs 3 basketball tournament!

Entrants of all ages were invited to Poolesville Baptist Church to participate in this half-court tournament. There were three categories for participants: 14 & under boys, 14 & under girls, and adults. Ray Hoewing and Catherine Beliveau, members of the WUMCO Board of Directors, joined in the fun. Ray's son Link Hoewing and first round draft pick Lee rounded out their team and provided much needed skill.

The WUMCO All Stars started out slowly, scoring only one basket in each of their first 2 games. In the third game, they started subbing a little better and managed 5 points. They got their only "W" for the day when their final opponent failed to produce their players and forfeited the game.

The All Stars were the oldest team there, with an average age of 60, but they played with a lot of energy and determination. In the end, the All Stars came in 4th out of 5 teams; but WUMCO came out a winner, with 183 pounds of food donated to the WUMCO Pantry.

Next year we hope to recruit more teams to participate in this fun and worthwhile tournament.

