

Contact: Ronald Lee Still
Phone 919-661-6565
Phone M-F day 919-715-6520

Warehouse: 5533 N.C. HWY
42 W Rear Units D96-100
Garner, NC 27529
Mail: 1413 Kenbrook Dr.
Garner, NC 27529-4447

Basic Needs Ministry
-
**Cleveland Township
Emergency Food
Pantry**

Press Release

Eating on \$10 a Week, Maybe

Garner, NC, December 1, 2007: Hundreds of residents count on their Cleveland Township Emergency Food Pantry to keep their bellies from growling. The pantry spends \$10 to provide a neighbor with enough food for a week. The director, Ronald Still of Garner, doesn't know where he will get the money for the food required for 160,000 meals in the next year. In November the demand for food rose 1,000 meals greater than October, as the people looking for food support crowded twice weekly into the narrow aisles. The Pantry is part of Basic Needs' operation in an old warehouse at I-40 and N.C. Highway 42 just off the Wake-Johnston county line. With food bills running four times higher than last year, the small group of pantry volunteers goes shopping three times a week to try to find enough affordable food for their neighbors.

Two years ago, Cleveland had no food pantry and the families had to drive to pantries from Smithfield to Garner. With gas at \$3 a gallon, the pantry and the \$300,000 worth of food, 200 car and truck loads, brought into the Township this year were critical. It's the safety net for seniors born in the 1920s, nourishment for the newborns, and the energy provider for the youth to achieve in school. Without continuing financial support this community charity will run out of food and not be able to keep its warehouse open. Families from the community pitch in by working without pay, but they still face the basic warehouse operating costs of \$40,000 a year, before the food costs. The charity seeks small donations of \$1 a meal, \$10 to feed one person 21 meals a week, or \$50 to feed an average family of five for a week. Enough small donations can ensure the food will keep coming and the doors open. Grocery store food has been so scarce, the director requested hunters bring deer to their nearest licensed processing plant for a source of ground meat. Regardless of the jokes, road kill is not permitted to be served.

Donations and pledges may be designated for the Food Pantry and sent to the non-profit at: Cleveland Township Emergency Food Pantry, 1413 Kenbrook Drive, Garner, NC 27529-4447. The warehouse is at 5533 N.C. Highway 42 West D-96-100, Garner. Direct food donations are accepted during normal operating hours: Monday 6-9 p.m. and Saturday 9-6. Basic Needs provided more than \$9 million in benefits during the past 4 years through its clothing ministry, food pantry, and its promotion of NACo's discount prescription drug program. To

For Immediate Release

more

volunteer or find more information about its programs, go to its Internet site at <http://4042needs.org/> or call 919-661-6565.