

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

## Cleveland Township's Hungry Families Loose Tons of Free Food

### No Volunteers, No Money, No Food

Garner, NC, July 15, 2007: Hungry Cleveland Township residents lost tons of free food when volunteers could not be found to make the scheduled food pickup runs to Raleigh for Cleveland's Emergency Food Pantry. This is the time of year that the free and reduced lunch students in public schools are not supported. The losses started with the offer of a one-time free load of 2,000 pounds of canned goods donated by residents via the Postal Workers to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Volunteers could only bring 500 pounds out in the minutes allotted, at a loss of 1,500 pounds. The losses continue with the weekly loss of a free load offered by the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. The Cleveland Pantry supplies groceries for over 200 residents at Basic Needs Ministry's warehouse by I-40 on N.C. HWY 42. Even if this much food would be available again through the Food Bank and volunteers are found to drive it to the pantry, Cleveland will have to pay hundreds of dollars in newly added handling fees to get it. All agencies must now pay the Food Bank a service fee to receive "free" food donated by community residents and organizations. Other once "free" food has been surcharged to cover the higher costs of transportation.

The lack of volunteers to hand food out and the increased client load forced the pantry to start appointment scheduling to control the lines. The high client demand on Monday nights is forcing some to return on Saturdays, due to the shortage of staff, time, and volunteers.

The food pantry has experienced a 250% increase in weekly food costs, without a gain in community support. From the successful shopping trips on June 26-27, when the pantry acquired \$17,000 in food, its three freezers are showing their bare bottoms and the pantry has dropped under \$175 in its Food Bank account. It should overdraw its account tomorrow.

For Immediate Release

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. Basic Needs provided more than \$8 million in benefits during the past 4 years through its clothing ministry, food pantry, and its promotion of a discount prescription drug program. To volunteer or find more information about its programs, go to its Internet site at <http://4042needs.org/> or call 919-661-6565.

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