

Philabundance has help available for the hungry

29 Sep 2009 — Bucks County Courier Times

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State Rep. Frank Farry's office has given out 26 emergency food boxes so far.

As a 73-year-old widow living on Social Security and a small pension from her late husband's job at General Motors, Delores Stocker said she often has to choose between buying food and filling the 11 prescriptions she takes.

The Middletown resident recently was able to get both.

Although she was reluctant to seek help, she was grateful for a free emergency food box from the local office of state Rep. Frank Farry, R-142.

"I've lived in my house 33 years and never needed help with food before, but things are just mounting up," said Stocker, who has two artificial knees, an artificial ankle, a bad back and an increasingly difficult time making her income meet her expenses.

"I felt kind of funny at first, because all these years, I never had to do this before, but I went and got the box and it's been wonderful," she continued. "There is a lot of good food in there. When your cupboard is empty, you'll do it."

The 30-pound boxes of food are provided by the nonprofit regional food bank Philabundance, which feeds people all over the Delaware Valley and is using Farry's office as a distribution point in Lower Bucks County. The office had given out 26 boxes as of Monday, Farry said.

The boxes have hot and cold breakfast cereals, shelf stable milk, canned meat and fish, canned fruits and vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, bagged and boxed grains, macaroni and cheese and other foods. They are meant as a one-time help, but they also contain information on how people can get food on a continuing basis.

After reading the information in the box and talking with Farry's staff, Stocker said she has made arrangements to get more food from Langhorne Terrace Baptist Church.

"I think the difficult economic times are definitely increasing the need for these kinds of resources," said Farry. "But there are always people going through tough times that need this kind of help. We're just helping Philabundance get people one of the necessities of life. Giving people enough food to last a few days and direction on how to get more is a pretty important task."

Farry's office is in the Maple Square office complex, 370 East Maple Ave., Suite 102, in Middletown. For more information on the emergency food boxes, call his office at 215-752-6750, Philabundance at 215-339-0900 or visit philabundance.org.

The boxes can be picked up during regular office hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. However, if there is a need, a resident can call his office during those business hours and make arrangements to pick up a box at night or on weekends, said Farry.

Farry represents Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Hulmeville, Penndel, most of Middletown and most of Lower Southampton. Chris English can be reached at 215-949-4193 or cenglish@phillyBurbs.com.

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