

State Council Program Awards

Entry Form

THIS REPORTING FORM MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH COUNCIL AND FORWARDED TO THE STATE COUNCIL.
(A separate reporting form should be completed for each program category.)

CATEGORY (MARK ONE): Faith Family Community Life



COUNCIL INFORMATION:

1 Council Number: _____ Total Council Members: _____
Grand Knight: _____ E-Mail: _____

PROGRAM INFORMATION (complete all sections):

2 Program Title: _____ Program Date: _____

Participation: $\frac{\text{Members}}{\text{Members}} + \frac{\text{Non Members}}{\text{Non Members}} = \frac{\text{Total Participants}}{\text{Total Participants}}$ $\frac{\text{Total Participants}}{\text{Total Participants}} \times \frac{\text{Hours}}{\text{Hours}} = \frac{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}{\text{Total Volunteer Hours}}$

Program Planning: $\frac{\text{Costs}}{\text{Costs}}$ & $\frac{\text{Time}}{\text{Time}}$ Members Recruited: _____ Donations: $\frac{\text{Local Currency}}{\text{Local Currency}}$

3 Describe program in detail. Use additional paper if necessary. Supplementary material may be submitted along with the nomination. Accompanying materials can include letters, testimonials, news clippings, photographs, pamphlets, etc. Do not submit tapes, videocassettes, DVD's, display materials, films, etc., as they will not be considered in judging the nomination.

3a) In the space provided below, briefly describe the purpose and goals of this program. This section must be completed.

DO NOT SUBMIT THIS REPORT FORM TO SUPREME COUNCIL

**ENTRY MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE STATE COUNCIL
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE COMPETITION**

MAIL ORIGINAL TO: State Deputy or State Program Director

COPY TO: Council File

Available in electronic format at www.kofc.org



(continued on reverse)

3b) Whom does this program benefit?

3c) What problem or need did this program resolve?

3d) Why did the council select this program?

3e) Describe the success of the program:

Attest: _____ Signed: _____ Date _____
State Deputy Grand Knight

Maryland State Council Community Service Award Submission 2020-2021
SHARE Food Program (Helping Hands)
Patuxent Council 2203, Laurel, Md.

Introduction/Background:

Once per month since 1996, Patuxent Council has conducted a SHARE Food distribution. The SHARE Food Network, sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, is a food cooperative that provides monthly opportunities to purchase a bag of nutritious groceries worth between \$40 and \$45 at a discounted price of \$22. These discounts are achieved through high-volume purchasing and the work of volunteers, including the Brother Knights, family members, and friends of Patuxent Council, who order, pick-up, repackage, and distribute the food each month. Each bag of groceries is known as a “Value Pack” and typically includes a mix of frozen protein items, dry goods, and fresh produce with an average weight of 18 to 20 pounds per bag. Various specialty items are available each month.



Brother Knights and family members of Patuxent Council 2203 assembly SHARE Value Packs for clients. (Photo Credit: Brother Knight Rick Askins, SHARE Co-Coordinator)

Patuxent Council serves a variety of clients through its SHARE Food Program. Nearly all our individual clients, 21 as of the date of this submission, receive a total of 39 Value Packs each month at no charge. These are our “individual donate clients.” We also donate three food packages per month, typically a Value Pack and two specialty items, to two local convents, one in Laurel and one in Riverdale. The Council further donates 10 Value Packs per month (20 total) to two local food pantries, Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services (LARS) and FISH of Laurel, also known as “Elizabeth House.” For holiday distributions immediately prior to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, the Council donates either a turkey or a spiral ham to our individual clients and the convents and doubles its donation to LARS and Elizabeth House to 20 Value Packs (40 total).

Because anyone can purchase food from SHARE, we also have between three and five paying individual clients per month. These clients take advantage of the discounts offered through SHARE and simply pick up their orders from us on Distribution Day. We handle the ordering, pick-up, and packaging. Additionally, LARS and Elizabeth House order food through SHARE to help keep their food pantries stocked, again taking advantage of the discounted prices offered by the SHARE model. Council members deliver these Value Packs directly to the food pantries in bulk each month. Finally, the St. Mary of the Mills Parish Pantry occasionally orders food through SHARE, especially for holiday distributions.

Patuxent Council’s first-ever SHARE distribution in 1996 totaled seven Value Packs. About 25 years later, our typical monthly distribution has grown to between 130 and 140 Value Packs. At our March 27, 2021, SHARE Distribution, we will surpass an estimated total of \$1,000,000 of food distributed through our SHARE Host Site.

SHARE During the COVID-19 Pandemic:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, since March 2020, Patuxent Council’s SHARE Program has taken on an even greater importance. Demand for our services has increased as we have taken on additional individual clients. LARS and Elizabeth House have also significantly increased their monthly orders, from a combined total of between 40 and 50 Value Packs per month pre-COVID to as many as 70 total Value Packs per month during the pandemic. During Summer 2020, Council

members approved an additional \$500 allocation to SHARE, which was used to purchase additional Value Packs for LARS, Elizabeth House, and the St. Mary's Parish Pantry. The program has also proved to be a vital source of protein items, especially in Spring 2020 when many meat processing plants around the country temporarily shut down. At one point, one of the food pantries we support informed us they had totally run out of protein items and were looking forward to our SHARE delivery so they could resume distribution of meat to their clients.

To keep our clients and volunteers safe, we quickly developed and implemented new health and safety protocols, including use of hand sanitizer, masks, social distancing, a cap on volunteer numbers, and contactless, drive-thru distribution of food packages to clients.

In April 2020, due to safety concerns for staff and volunteers, Catholic Charities closed the SHARE Warehouse and canceled the April SHARE Distribution. Local clients faced the prospect of going without food. Our SHARE team, led by Brother Knights Rick Askins and Jimmy Williams and Lady Phyllis Williams, quickly struck a deal with the local Sam's Club to purchase food in bulk, procuring nearly 1,700 pounds of canned goods and fresh produce, which allowed us to hold our own food distribution in support of our individual donate clients, LARS, and Elizabeth House. This distribution received coverage in the [Laurel Leader](#), the local weekly newspaper, on May 8, 2020.



Brother Knight Ed Wassell loads food at Sam's Club for April 2020 distribution. (Photo Credit: Brother Knight Roy Gilmore)

In May 2020, the Council coordinated with the City of Laurel to obtain bottled water, food boxes from the Maryland Food Bank, and meals ready to eat to supplement the regular SHARE distribution. Each individual donate client received a case of water, a food box, and a case of MREs. The total estimated weight of food and supplies distributed was 3,764 pounds.



Laurel Mayor Craig Moe presents Patuxent Council with a CARES Act grant for nearly \$16,000. (Screenshot – City of Laurel Facebook page)

Following the May distribution, Council leadership remained in close contact with Laurel Mayor Craig Moe and the Laurel Office of Emergency Management. This ongoing dialogue led to several positive outcomes for SHARE, including the City offering to provide logistical support, if needed, to pick up food at the SHARE Warehouse. In November 2020, in recognition of the importance of the SHARE Program to Laurel, Mayor Moe and the City government awarded Patuxent Council with a CARES Act grant of nearly \$16,000 to assist with ongoing food distribution efforts. Mayor Moe has visited several SHARE distributions over the past year to lend his

support and thank our volunteers for their efforts, and City employees have volunteered at select distributions to get hands-on experience with SHARE.

The October 2020 distribution was documented by a film crew sent by the Supreme Council as part of the Supreme Council's series of videos to highlight local Councils' responses to the pandemic. As of this writing, the Supreme Council reports the video is complete and will be released soon. The Council distributed an estimated 2,415 pounds of food worth \$3,279.

In November 2020, the Council distributed an estimated 3,193 pounds of food worth \$4,284. In doing so, the Council surpassed an estimated total of 750,000 pounds of food distributed through SHARE since 1996.

Key SHARE Stats March 2020-February 2021:

- Estimated 31,258 pounds (15.6 tons) of food distributed; average of 2,605 pounds (1.3 tons) per month
- Estimated value of food \$42,097; average of \$3,508 per month

- 1,875 Value Packs and specialty items; average of 156 per month
- Holiday Distributions:
 - March 2020 (Easter) – 2,600 pounds of food worth \$3,949
 - November 2020 (Thanksgiving) – 3,193 pounds of food worth \$4,284
 - December 2020 (Christmas) – 3,477 pounds of food worth \$5,544
- Volunteers:
 - 1013.5 total volunteer hours; average of 84.5 hours per month
 - Average of 28 volunteers per month; including 16 Brother Knights and 12 family members and friends
 - Patuxent Council is incredibly thankful to all our SHARE volunteers for their incredible support during these challenging times
- Cumulative SHARE stats (as of February 28th, 2021):
 - 758,788 pounds of food worth \$992,891
 - 47,406 food packages

How SHARE Distribution Day Works:

On SHARE distribution day, around 10 volunteers gather at the Msgr. Keesler Parish Center at St. Mary of the Mills for a 7:30 a.m. departure for the SHARE Warehouse in Landover to pick up our order for distribution. Our Warehouse truckers return to the Keesler Center at about 8:45 a.m., where they are met by additional volunteers to unload, sort, and package the food for distribution to our clients, LARS, and Elizabeth House. Next, volunteers depart for deliveries to the convents, LARS, and Elizabeth House. Other volunteers remain at the Keesler Center to clean up and break down the Value Pack assembly line.

Beginning around 10 a.m., clients begin to arrive to pick up their Value Packs. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, we have maintained a drive-through distribution where clients pull up in front of the Keesler Center, provide their name to a volunteer, and their food is brought directly to their car and placed in either the back seat or the trunk. This creates a safer, contactless environment for clients and volunteers alike. SHARE concludes at approximately 11 a.m.



Volunteers load vehicles with food at the SHARE Warehouse in Landover, Md. From left to right: Brother Ed Wassell, Maryland State Council Food for Families Chairman Chris Coker, Ralph Askins, Bridget Wassell, Brother Roy Gilmore, and SHARE Co-Coordinator Lady Phyllis Williams. (Photo Credit: Brother Knight Rick Askins, SHARE Co-Coordinator)

Fundraising:

Patuxent Council's SHARE Program would not be possible without the financial backing of our Brother Knights, family members, friends, and parishioners who give so generously to support the program. Our main fundraiser for SHARE is our annual SHARE Holiday Meals Collections, through which Brother Knights and family members collect funds before and after all Masses for two weekends in November and two weekends in December. Parishioners and others can also mail checks in support of these collections. Due to COVID's myriad impacts, including significantly lower Mass attendance, we were unsure how the 2020 collections would go. However, we were blessed with a historically strong response, collecting slightly over \$13,000, or nearly 90% of the funds needed to fund SHARE annually.

Pre-COVID, the Council would raise additional funds through its UMD Concessions fundraising program. This year, the Council will earmark some of the proceeds from its popular Drive-Thru Dinner Program in support of SHARE. We also annually reinvest our \$500 Food for Families rebate into the SHARE Program, which is enough to purchase about 23 Value Packs. St. Mary of the Mills also provides monthly financial support.

Additional Photos:



Brother Knight Jimmy Williams, SHARE Co-Coordinator, leads volunteers in an opening prayer. (Photo Credit: Maryland State Council Community Activities Director Bill Newbrough)



SHARE food waits to be unloaded outside the St. Mary of the Mills Msgr. Keesler Parish Center. (Photo Credit: Maryland State Council Community Activities Director Bill Newbrough)



Following assembly of Value Packs for individual donate clients, volunteers sort the remaining bulk food for delivery to LARS and Elizbeth House. (Photo Credit: Maryland State Council Community Activities Director Bill Newbrough)



Brother Knight Bill McMahon sorts potatoes and onions for delivery to LARS and Elizabeth House. (Photo Credit: Maryland State Council Community Activities Director Bill Newbrough)