

# Public support sought in efforts to feed community

By Amber Weisbarth

Word of Righteousness Family Life Center will be distributing free food to the community again on Saturday, Sept. 6, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Garfield Heights Community Center, 13455 Dressler Rd. The Center urges the community to support its efforts to feed the community since so many lives are impacted by this work.

Already the Center has made several adjustments to continue this community service in light of increased demand and decreased volunteer and financial support.

For instance, telephone pre-registration is no longer accepted and unregistered clients can only be served at the food distribution between the hours of 1 and 2 p.m.

The Center appreciates the continued patience and cooperation of the clients it serves during this transition.

Pastor Alicia Lytle, the Center's community outreach program coordinator, reports, "The present economy has left many individuals with an inadequate supply of food. When faced with housing instability and rising gas prices, many individuals adjust by purchasing less food."

"Word of Righteousness Family Life Center recognizes that many individuals and families in the community face food shortages. We operate this distribution in an effort to meet this need," she continued.

At the food distribution held on August 2, the Center served 230 people from 72 households. With the support of the entire community, it can accomplish much more for the benefit of those in need.

Word of Righteousness Family Life Center's food distribution offers fresh fruits and vegetables wherever possible and stocks items from all of the food groups to ensure that clients can prepare a well-balanced meal.

Perhaps most notable, it operates a 'client choice' pantry that allows clients to choose the groceries they like, and even strives

to always include snack options.

The following are quotes from some of the clients (past and present) which illustrates the impact this effort has had on peoples' lives:

"When it's hard and I have no food (not a lot) to feed my family, they are there to help me and also other families out there. Thank you." -Garfield Heights resident.

"I am disabled and waiting for disability benefits since last year. My son lives with me but can't find work. We are behind with bills and in need of everything. This helps so much. THANK YOU." -Maple Heights resident.

"I am on pension and it helps me." -Valley View resident.

As a grassroots organization dependent upon public support to operate, the economy has also impacted Word of Righteousness Family Life Center. Rising food and gas prices have increased the cost to maintain this program while contributing to a decline in individual contributions.

While the Center is grateful for the support of The Neighborhood News, Mayor Thomas Longo and Ward One Councilman Michael Dudley, it hopes that the community-at-large will take advantage of the opportunity to support this cause as well.

For every \$1 donated, through its partnership with the Cleveland Foodbank, the Center is able to distribute enough food to prepare four meals for hungry families in the community.

Contributors should make all checks payable to WORFLC COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND and mail to P.O. Box 25584, Garfield Heights OH, 44125.

"Please do not mail food or supermarket gift certificates since your donated dollar goes much further at the Foodbank," Pastor Alicia explains.

Donations can also securely be made online at [www.worflc.org](http://www.worflc.org). Those wishing to volunteer should send a short letter of interest to [community@worflc.org](mailto:community@worflc.org).

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