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Community Development Investment & Lending Partnership

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Feeding program for residents in the Dan River District of Pittsylvania County

Primary Contact	Karen Harris
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Name of organization	God's Storehouse, Inc.
Mission statement	God's Storehouse works throughout the Danville and Pittsylvania County communities to collect food, distribute food resources to those in need, promote nutrition, and connect customers to local resources with the help of the local faith-based community, businesses, schools, and volunteers.
Overview of organization	<p>God's Storehouse is a nonprofit food pantry that was formed in 1987 by several pastors, faith community leaders and representatives from several congregations of different denominations who were led to pool their individual food pantries into a single area-wide organized facility. Today, we are still supported by over 150 faith communities, along with various organizations, businesses, schools and individuals who give their time and money on a regular basis. We are the primary and one of the largest non-profit food pantries in our area whose purpose is to provide life-sustaining food to the hungry so that they may focus on advancing their lives. We are on a main street near downtown Danville, on a bus route and more central to the majority of customers we serve. God's Storehouse distributes food four days a week, serving, on average, 169 families per day. Our customers are low-income families, the homeless, the disabled, the unemployed, the elderly, single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, retirees, and many more who struggle to provide for themselves and their family.</p> <p>During normal operations, we have 25-30 regular volunteers who come each day to check-in customers, prepare, sort and distribute food boxes. In addition to food distribution, we also host the Malcom Huckabee Backpacks program which provides food for elementary school children in Danville to take home over the weekend so they can return to school Monday nourished and ready to learn. Last year we began work on an urban farm on the lot adjacent to God's Storehouse. The goals of the Urban Farm are to educate people of all ages and socio-economic background about local/healthy food, build community by bringing people together from different walks of life and</p>

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	creating a space where everyone feels safe and welcome, increase God's Storehouse access to healthy food, be part of starting a local-food system in Danville and help improve community members physical and mental health.
Website	www.godsstorehouse.org
State where proposal is located	Virginia - Pittsylvania
Proposal title	Feeding program for residents in the Dan River District of Pittsylvania County
Support request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investment/Grant
Requested amount	\$60,000
Other significant partners in the proposal	Kentuck Baptist Church, Chatham Rotary Club
Proposal narrative	<p>God's Storehouse mission is to serve both Danville and Pittsylvania County, 83% of 4,884 served in 2019 were in Danville while only 5.2% served were in the Dan River District and 11.7% in other parts of the county. At 978 square miles, Pittsylvania County, population 62,000, is the largest county in Virginia. With such a large geographic area, transportation to God's Storehouse is a logistical and financial challenge for many families already facing barriers to food security. The County is divided into four school districts, Gretna and Chatham in the North, and Tunstall and Dan River in the South. The population of the Dan River District is a little over 13,000 based on census tracts 114, 108.1 and 108.2 with 2,484 living in poverty [source: 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates]. After reviewing the location of God's Storehouse's customers served in 2019 and the poverty rates, it was determined that an ideal satellite office for God's Storehouse would be in the Dan River District in order to reach those in greatest need in the county.</p> <p>Through a partnership with Kentuck Baptist Church (providing warehouse space, volunteers, financial support, and transportation), Chatham Rotary Club (providing volunteers and financial support), and other churches and organizations (providing volunteers and financial support), this grant will provide expanded services by God's Storehouse to the Dan River District. Kentuck Baptist will serve as a model to expand services in other parts of the County. In the future, we will partner with other organizations as distribution sites, possibly creating a mobile food pantry with the capacity to serve the nearly 8,000 food insecure residents of Pittsylvania County.</p> <p>Funds will be used to purchase food to support the additional increase of customers, used for fuel to deliver food boxes where transportation is an issue and to pick-up food for distribution in the Dan River District from God's Storehouse in Danville, used to install and set-up a virtual connection into the database God's Storehouse uses in order to track customer food pick-ups and other demographic information. Our target is to provide food to 60% of those living in poverty. This grant will provide accessible healthy and nutritious food to approximately 1500 people in the Dan River District. Based on numbers</p>

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	served and their location, God’s Storehouse is not meeting the needs of those in the county who are food insecure and at or below the poverty level.
Issues addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Services and Facilities ▪ Disaster Relief
Geographic impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ County-wide
Population served	Our target population is the food insecure, low income, disabled, elderly, homeless, unemployed and SNAP participants in Danville and Pittsylvania County Virginia. For 2017, Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, Pittsylvania County had a food insecurity rate of 12.4% - 7,670 people. Virginia: 10.2% or 863,390 people. Our customers are those who struggle to pay their bills and provide food for their family.
Population income	<p>Per Census.gov: Pittsylvania County, median household income (in 2018 dollars) was \$45,382, Persons in poverty 16.4% (9,900) out of 60,354.</p> <p>Department of Social Services Profile Report SFY 2019: In Pittsylvania County, 9,815 is the number of people (all ages) living in poverty (16% of 60,949 – 2018 population).</p> <p>In 2019, distributed 32,879 boxes of food totaling over 1,132,000 pounds and averaged 169 families per day. 4,884 households were served reaching 9,788 individuals. This year, we have distributed over 8,000 boxes and average 161 families per day. Of the 4,884 households, only 256 were in the Dan River District area.</p> <p>Population of Dan River District: 13,046. Living in poverty: 2,484</p>
Anticipated outcomes or impact	<p>The most significant successful outcome for families participating in God’s Storehouse food distribution program is to increase funds available for low income households to be able to purchase/pay for other life necessities (i.e. rent, utilities, clothes, medical, etc.). To be able to provide free food for those families who struggle each day allows them to free up funds to pay their rent so they do not get evicted, to pay their utilities so they do not have their electricity cut off, and to buy gasoline for their vehicle so they can get to and from work. Free food enables low income and food insecure individuals and families to increase stability and consistency in their home.</p> <p>Another outcome is to maintain stability and consistency within the family by providing temporary assistance with food for those between jobs or have lost their job. People come to the pantry when they lose their job or had their hours reduced and their income has been significantly reduced or eliminated. They find they can no longer provide food for their families. By coming to God’s Storehouse for food, they are able to maintain some stability within their family even when their work situation/income is unstable.</p> <p>The success of our food pantry is measured by our ability to continue to acquire and provide balanced, nutritious boxes of food that meet the demand of those in need of food in our community. Thus far in 2020, we have distributed over 9,900 boxes of food. The number of families served, as well as</p>

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	<p>new customers added is analyzed on a monthly basis and compared to previous years to anticipate food requirements. God's Storehouse would be able to supply boxes to Kentuck Baptist who would deliver the food to families who are unable to travel to our facility Storehouse in Danville. We anticipate that 85% of the food needed will be donated.</p>
<p>Evaluation methods used to measure success</p>	<p>For the outcome to increase funds available for low income households to be able to purchase/pay for other life necessities (i.e. rent, utilities, clothes, medical, etc.): will be measured by one-on-one surveys with our customers when they provide their income information at their yearly update. The following questions will be asked: 1. How has the food you received from God's Storehouse had an impact on your life? 2. Describe how the box of food provided helped you? 3. Because you did not have to spend as much money on food, describe how those funds were used?"</p> <p>For the outcome to maintain stability and consistency within the family by providing temporary assistance with food: will be measured by reviewing customer visits and identifying gaps of six months or more between visits. These customers will be contacted by phone and/or mail to determine why they no longer come to God's Storehouse services. If found that their income situation has improved or changed, then they will be interviewed and asked how God's Storehouse aided them.</p> <p>The success of our food pantry is measured by our ability to continue to acquire, have adequate quantities in inventory, and provide balanced, nutritious boxes of food that meet the demand of those in need of food in the Dan River District. We will need to purchase 50,000 pounds of food to aid in preparing 9,000 boxes of food for monthly distribution in order to feed the addition of 1,500 households. Our target population would receive a box of food that will feed themselves or their family for 3-4 days. The number of families served, as well as new customers added is analyzed on a monthly basis and compared to previous years to anticipate food requirements.</p>
<p>Project timeframe. Is your request for an existing or new program?</p>	<p>Existing Program</p>