

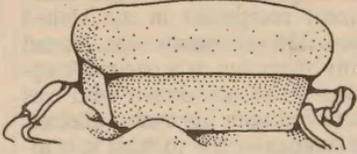
Elkridge Food Pantry History

The Elkridge Food Pantry operates out of a building that belongs to Melville Chapel, called the Good Samaritan Outreach Center.

According to articles in the Elkridge Viaduct Newspaper, it is a nonprofit formed around 1986 by Herman F. Prehn, founder of the Elkridge Love Mission, and Michael Graff. The "Elkridge Love Emergency Food Pantry" erected a memorial marker to Herman Prehn, 1929-2012. Just known as the Elkridge Food Pantry, it is run completely by volunteers. The Elkridge Kiwanis Club used to raise money for the Food Pantry but their charter was revoked in 2007.

The following appeared in the August-September 1989 Viaduct:

Elkridge Food Pantry
by Sharon Graff



Perhaps you have driven along Furnace Avenue and wondered what was in that small white building adjacent to the grounds of Melville Chapel. It's an unassuming structure with a cement facade and brown trim with a stone parking area in front. No sign identifies it, but it is the home of the Elkridge Food Pantry.

Entering its third year, the Food Pantry is a non-profit organization run by two local residents: Herman Prehn, past president of the Elkridge Kiwanis and Michael Graff. Formed to help the needy in the Elkridge area, the main goal of the Food Pantry is to see that no one goes hungry.

Emergency food is available, at any time, for those in desperate need; and food deliveries have been made to the bedridden. For other low-income residents, the pantry is open the second and fourth Friday of each month from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For those who can afford

it, the pantry asks that they help share in the cost of operating the pantry by paying a nominal fee for the food they receive. Regardless of the ability to pay, no one in need is turned away. If additional assistance should be needed, the Food Pantry will help the client connect with the correct state or county agencies which may be able to help them with their individual needs.

Funding has been provided by contributions from local businesses, community organizations and individuals. Melville Chapel has given use of the building rent free as well as donating food and paying toward the utilities. The Elkridge Kiwanis has been extremely generous to the Food Pantry and to those it helps.

Fund raising is ongoing and donations are gladly welcomed. Volunteers are needed as well. If you would like to donate or volunteer; or if you, or anyone you know, are in need of food, please call Mr. Graff at 796-8424 or Mr. Prehn at 796-8383.

No one should go to bed hungry.

Editor's Note: On Sept. 9th and Oct. 21st, the Kiwanis will set up a food receiving station on the KLN property (formerly LeCompte's) from 12-4 p.m. All non-perishable food donations will be accepted.

As for land records, this is kind of a rabbit hole, because apparently the Food Pantry is not on a subdivided lot, but part of Melville's land. Melville Chapel itself was built in 1885. It was on land that was part of the Hanover Tract which extended from the Patapsco River to Hanover Road. An 1850 Howard County deed in book 10, page 189 references the sale from William Mills to the trustees of Melville Chapel. But William Mills was conveyed the land earlier in the year by the Elk Ridge Landing Lyceum (deed 10/328), which apparently was formed by the Maryland General Assembly. A Lyceum is a meeting hall used for educational lectures and the like. In 1836, the Lyceum bought the land from Asher and Matilda Earp (23/525),

and it appears the land was already laid out for a meeting house and burial ground. Though this is less about the Elkridge Food Pantry and more about Melville, I found this history fascinating. Who knew we had a Lyceum? And did anything ever come of it?