

END HUNGER IN CALVERT COUNTY

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ROBIN BRUNGARD
410-257-0700
rbrungard@endhungercalvert.org

Over 350 Riders Show Up To Help End Hunger In Calvert County

In what may have been one of Calvert's largest organized bike rides ever, on Saturday, April 25, 2009 over 350 cyclists hit the road to help End Hunger In Calvert County (EHCC). Riders came from as far as Maine, all to raise money and awareness about some of Calvert's neediest residents.

The weather could not have cooperated more. "It was a beautiful day, a beautiful ride. It was really well done – very impressive," said Rick Kennedy of Annapolis. Sunny skies and gentle breezes greeted the riders as they left the campus of Chesapeake Church in Huntingtown. The ride offered four different courses, the longest one running 62 miles.

Cyclist James Degeneffe summed it up this way, "I ride in a lot of rides, and this was by far the best!"

The event raised over \$12,000 all to help re-stock the shelves of local food pantries that are a part of the End Hunger In Calvert County network.

"The need has grown as the economy has shrunk. So this is a great way to not only raise money and awareness, but to do it through community. It's all about neighbor helping neighbor," said Reverend Robert P. Hahn, EHCC Chairman and Senior Pastor of Chesapeake Church.

Robin Brungard, event organizer and EHCC Program Director, noted, "Local businesses donated a lot which not only kept costs down, it fostered a real sense of countywide commitment to battle the problem of hunger."

End Hunger In Calvert County is an association of over 30 Calvert County business and community leaders united behind the idea that hunger in our county can be defeated.

Among the local businesses which contributed to the bike ride were Dunkirk Amoco, Fridays Creek Winery, Herrington on the Bay, Arundel Bay Christian Academy, Bike Doctor, Frank Gumpert Printing, The Perfect Tan, Oxon Hill Bike Club, Top Hat Party Rental, Morgan E. Russell Inc. and Chesapeake Church.

But more than raising money, these cyclists also hope to raise awareness. As the economy has worsened, the number of county families needing assistance has been growing. In the last year, food pantries have seen a 40 per cent growth in the number of families seeking help.

“It was a perfect day. We helped a lot of people and had a lot fun,” said Deborah Brower of North Beach, “What more could you ask for?”

To learn more about End Hunger In Calvert County, get involved or make a donation go to endhungercalvert.org or call 410-257-5672.

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