

## NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT

Concerned about the growing problem of food insecurity, the Peace and Social Justice Committee here at Pennswood Village, decided to set up a Green Bag program. Those who choose to participate get a bright green reusable grocery bag emblazoned with

**NEIGHBORHOOD FOOD PROJECT.** They keep the bags in their apartment for two months, adding an item or two to the bag each time they market. We contacted a local food pantry to be sure they could handle donations of the size we anticipated.

We ordered 100 green bags and we handed the bags out to those who had signed up to participate. The response was so great that we immediately purchased another 100 bags. A committee member volunteered to keep an email list of "green baggers" and send out reminders the week before pick-up, and again the day before pick up.. On the allotted day, participants put their filled bags outside their doors, and volunteers picked up the bags took them to outside pick up points. From these locations, the local food pantry collected the bags in their truck.

Our first collection included 113 bags filled with non perishable food! Our second collection, two months later, was 128 bags, and more folks have signed up for Green Bags. This is a win/win if there ever was one: the food pantry can count on a large delivery of food every other month and residents have an easy way to help fill a growing need for food.

This project was set up and is entirely run by residents. It is a joy to see how pleased folks are to participate, and how eagerly they await the return of the green bags from the food pantry!

If you want to set up a Green Bag project in your CCRC we would be happy to help in any way we can.

Carolyn Mark. ([chapter4@earthlink.net](mailto:chapter4@earthlink.net))  
Sally Maruca ([sallymaruca@gmail.com](mailto:sallymaruca@gmail.com))  
Randy Quinby. ([rmquinby@verizon.net](mailto:rmquinby@verizon.net))