

Angel Food program attracts first corporate sponsor

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DOVER — St. Johns ACC church on Dover Point Road said demand for their Angel Food program, a reduced cost grocery program that allows area residents to shop for low cost grocery store quality food, has attracted donor dollars from local companies.

With the sluggish economy and high food costs, the Angel Food program at St. John's church has become popular in the Seacoast area, and more residents are signing up online every month. "Folks are coming to us and saying, we are not looking for a hand-out, we are looking for hand-up to help cope with the down economy," said Jessica Brackett, Angel Food Program Coordinator at St. John's. "People are telling us that the difference in cost is helping them stretch their budgets further."

St. John's church is part of a network of members to a national food co-op called Angel Food Ministries, and they are reaching out to help cut food costs.

"A family can order a box full of the same type of food you buy at the grocery store for a much lower cost," said Brackett, "Unfortunately, the Angel Food program costs us more than we take in right now, so we went looking for corporate donors to help with some of our infrastructure costs."

Michael McKinnon, CEO of Hygenall Corporation, said, "When we took a look at where we were going to donate money this year, we found plenty of well supported food pantry's, which is terrific for people that need food at no cost, but we wanted to do something for folks that simply need a little extra help so that they can stay focused on other expenses such as mortgages and to keep them from having to visit a food pantry later on."

Hygenall, based in Huntsville, Ala., has a facility in Newington. McKinnon lives in Dover.

Donations can be sent directly to St. John's Church at P.O. Box 1773, Dover, NH 03821, or contact Jessica Brackett at 603-505-8788.

Angel Food Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to providing food relief and financial support to communities throughout the United States. The program began in 1994 with 34 families in Monroe, Ga., and has grown to serve hundreds of thousands of families every month across 44 states.

Besides robust meals for families, Angel Food menus also include specialty packages for seniors and people living with diabetes, and meals for children called "After School Box." Boxes of food vary, depending on what you order, but here is an example from the Thanksgiving box:

7.5 lb. All Natural Perdue Roasting Hen, 3lb. Boneless Netted Ham Roast, 12 oz. Corn Bread Stuffing Mix, 1lb. Frozen Cranberries, 12ct. Mini Corn Cobbettes, 2lb. Green Beans, 2lb. Diced Sweet Potatoes, 12ct. Whole Wheat Dinner Rolls, 1.7 oz. Brown Gravy Mix.

To place a grocery order, and for more information on Angel Food Ministries, visit: www.angelfoodministries.com. For more information on St. John the Theologian, visit: <http://www.mdne.org/stjohns/stjohnsacc.htm>.



Courtesy photo Jessica Brackett, Angel Food Program Coordinator at St. John's, and daughter Danielle work with supplies.

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