



The vital link between food & hunger.

November 25, 2013

To Whom it May Concern,

The Cleveland Foodbank is happy to provide a letter of support for St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church. They are a good partner agency in good standing with the Foodbank. The church is also an important institution that adds positive dimension to the fabric of the community in Old Brooklyn.

St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church operates a community food pantry program. Since becoming a member with the Cleveland Foodbank in 1997, their pantry program has received 733,505 pounds of food. That is the equivalent to providing over 611,254 meals to people in need in their community! That is an amazing accomplishment.

Last year, the Cleveland Foodbank distributed a record 36 million pounds food to people in need. This represents the growing need in the communities we serve. Hunger relief programs like St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church are reporting a significant increase in the number of people they serve, yet they don't have more money to meet this increased demand. Every state, county, city, village, and town experiences some sort of need that reflects this country's current economic times. Whether a family is facing a temporary hardship or extended financial strain, programs like St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church provide relief to hungry people and give families the help that they so desperately depend on.

Last year alone, the pantry program distributed 68,436 pounds of food, of that 21,225 pounds being produce, equaling 57,030 meals! St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church recognized the significant need for clients to have access to produce. For many, fresh produce is not available in their local grocery store or it may be far too expensive to buy. St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church is committed to providing nutritious meals to food insecure families and individuals in our community.

The Cleveland Foodbank is honored to partner with St. Mary of Egypt Orthodox Church. We thank them for their passion in meeting the hunger related needs of their clients, their ability to inspire people in their community and their commitment to serving the Cleveland Foodbank's mission.

Sincerely,

Deb Beckwith  
Vice President, Agency Services and Programs

Jessica Morgan  
Director of Agency Services