

Catholic Community at Relay

SWES Ministry

Description & Responsibilities

Context: Southwest Emergency Services (SWES) was founded in 1985 in our church basement. SWES has grown into a nonprofit organization that is currently located at the Arbutus United Methodist Church and supported by local churches in southwest Baltimore County.

SWES provides its clients with utilities assistance, prescription assistance, and assistance with transportation costs. Baby furniture, household furnishings, clothing, and back-to-school supplies are available at the SWES Thrift Store. The store, located at the Arbutus United Methodist Church, is open to the public.

Each Sunday, Relay collects non-perishable foods and other household goods for SWES. Donations are brought forth during the Offertory Procession and later delivered to SWES by community members.

The SWES Ministry's mission is to maintain contact with Southwest Emergency Services and alert the community to its needs.

Responsibilities

- Understand that you are our liaison to SWES. SWES is sponsored by 19 different churches, including CCR.
- You may attend the monthly meetings of the SWES board (but it is not required) -- held at Arbutus United Methodist Church Office Conference Room on the 4th Tuesday of every month at 4:30pm.
- At this meeting, the SWES board will announce current needs--e.g, what food items are in short supply. Then within a few days, send an email to Rosie asking that the list of such items in the bulletin and E-News be updated accordingly.
- For the 2 Sundays before the Super Bowl, make an appeal for members to bring in donations of soup for SWES because it is SOUPer bowl Sunday.

- In mid-summer, ask SWES staff about what particular items are needed in the way of school supplies. (SWES has a stock of these items and staff can tell you where there is a shortage on the shelves). Also backpacks are always needed. Around late July/early August, make an appeal in church for members to bring in needed items--or solicit donations so you can buy them. Put the appeal in the bulletin as well as E-News. (Make this appeal over two Sundays.) Take the donated items to SWES.