

**GARRETT COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE**  
104 EAST CENTER STREET  
OAKLAND, MD. 21550

*Community Action Stops Operation of Food Program*

*Maryland Food Bank action end Community Action involvement with  
Brown Bag project*

***For Immediate Release***

Wednesday May 21, 2014

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**Garrett County Community Action announced that it will discontinue coordinating the Brown Bag Program in Garrett County in response to the Maryland Food Bank's action to sanction Community Action for accepting donations in support of the program.**

**Community Action purchased food through from the Maryland Food Bank and distributed it monthly to 500 households through a network of volunteers and local sponsor organizations. Many of the individuals receiving food are not mobile had food provided to their homes. The Maryland Food Bank notified Community Action that the practice of encouraging donations is not acceptable. Community Action has therefore regretfully decided to terminate the program. Without the suggested donation Community Action is unable to sustain this service, which includes the buying and transportation costs of food. Garrett County Community Action Committee, Inc. generated no profit from the Brown Bag program and all proceeds were used to keep the program operating.**

**The Brown Bag project has been in operation in Garrett County for twenty years and involves several hundred volunteers who assist with unloading, packaging and distributing food each month. Volunteers were the backbone for operation of the Brown Bag program over the two decades of operation in Garrett County.**

**In its determination letter to Community Action, the Maryland Food Bank stated its intent to increase the food it provides to local county food banks as drop off and pick up sites for persons with food needs. Community Action will maintain and refer persons to these community food distribution sites.**