# **Lexington Pantry seeks to** end hunger and give hope



Volunteers load the bed of a truck with food donations from Lexington Food Pantry Oct. 27, 2021, on the grounds of Saints College in Lexington, Miss. Holmes County supervisors assisted in the delivery of goods to members of the large rural county unable to easily travel to the event. Sarah Warnock/MCIR

#### By Sarah Warnock Mississippi Center For **Investigative Reporting**

Harvest time in the Mississippi Delta, a rolling emerald expanse of crops. The romantic vision is like a mirage against the glaring light of the nutritional disparity borne by residents here many for generations.

Holmes County, Mississippi, despite a blanket of 764 too well.

Mississippi native W. Ralph Eubanks wrote eloquently in the Oxford American. "I always knew when the Delta was approaching, since it seemed as if everything changed when we kudzu-covered hills disappeared, and the land flattened out completely and became more expansive. By the time we arrived in Mileston, the horizon appeared so endless that it was as if my father and I had entered another world."

But as Eubanks' own fam-



land, Miss., volunteers MCIR Oct. 27, 2021, in Lexing-Food Pantry at Saints Col- \$15,000 and a population lege, sorting through boxes of roughly 25 persons per of fresh produce supplies, square mile. MCIR visited of Holmes County. The of COVID-19 in 2020. The organization's mission is lack of decent jobs has led to improve the health and to a massive brain drain, said wellbeing of residents of William Dean Jr., who in Lexington and surround- 1974 became the first African ing communities by pro- American elected superinviding access to healthy tendent of schools in Holmes food, nutrition awareness, County. "We just don't have and cooking education. any industry here," he said. Sarah Warnock/MCIR

ily found, reaping what is just leave." sown has remained seemingly at arm's length for many poor and mostly Black resi-

Mississippians has joined efforts to battle the era of ravaging malnutrition, creating ture grants, the Mississippi a drive for better health and Food Network, Open Table, sustained hope by providing nutritious food in place sippi State University Exof high-calorie, low-protein square miles of fertile, arable convenience store offerings soil, knows this disparity all that have fueled the obesity and diabetes epidemics. Lexington Food Pantry has found a home on the grounds supplies. of historic Saints College on Highway 17 in Lexington. County. Sarah Warnock/ **MCIR** 

It may be hard to fathom reached Yazoo City. The a place so endlessly rich in ute, in part, to the pantry's soil as home to a population supply chain. with so many living below the poverty line. But the long line of cars rolling onto the campus of Saints College, at 9 am, on the last Wednesday of October, was undeniable we can give about 5,000 to proof of the reality.

> Lexington Food Pantry fundraiser Kathleen Hooker Waldrop says the pantry's mission is "improving health County residents by providing access to healthy food, nutrition education, and required resources. Healthy food for a healthy people."

The organization's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of residents of Lexington and surrounding communities by providing access to healthy food, nutrition awareness, and cooking Johnny Black of Ridge- education. Sarah Warnock/

Holmes County has a per ton, Miss., with Lexington capita income of less than to distribute to residents the county during the height "If people finish school they

Lexington Food Pantry's board of directors and officers consist of local clergy, some county supervisors and Now a diverse group of residents. They are aided by community partners and U.S. Department of Agricul-Aim for Change, Missistension Service, Lexington aldermen, local students and youth organizations, among others. Together, they provide manpower, funding and

> Jackson native and Lexington Food Pantry President Johnny Black raises cattle and started the 501C3 Rabbits of Relevance to contrib-

> "The goal is to raise, harvest and distribute 100 rabbits a month to food pantries for free. ...each rabbit feeds about four to five people. So, 6,000 meals a year," Black

The pantry forges on, with distributions planned for the last Wednesday of evand wellbeing of Holmes ery month, with plans for a holiday turkey drive and GoFundMe account in the

At close of distribution day in October, the pantry collected more than 200 forms with basic demographic information the Mississippi Food Network requires for residents receiving boxes of food. Many drivers picked up boxes for more than one family and for individuals lacking transportation. The pantry gave out 600 boxes with food from the four major food groups.

"In the Bible, you know, in the book of Acts -- they had all things come together. They brought their stuff together to help one another," Willie Hodges, an elder at Guiding Light Church of God in Christ, said of the new pantry. "And that is what you should teach your kids to do, share.

know, when I was a boy, if ing."

### IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Miya Fort was carried to the hospital on first Saturday night, not first Sunday night. Brownlow Cockrell's broth-

woke up sick on Wednesday morning, November 17th. of work. He sings with the He was so weak his dad Morgan Jubilees. called the emergency ambuwas checked at the hospital

had. If you didn't have, and

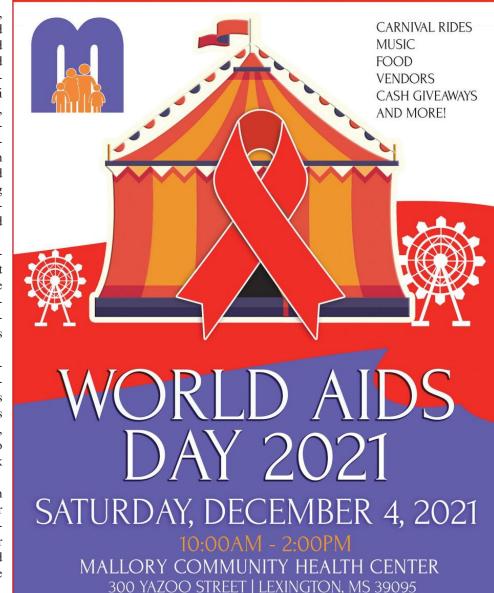
in Lexington, he was airlifted to Jackson. I don't know which hospital, but two family members let me know that he was real sick. Thursday I heard he had started talking some. Pray that this teenager will be alright. Let's I'm sorry for the error. Linda pray for John. Those of you that know him, talk to him er is sick. Pray for Miya and and encourage him to be a Mr. Brownlow. Also pray for good young man. I know one Rev. Henry Anderson, he is thing, he is a hard worker. He and his great grandfather, A teenager, John Morgan, Mr. Joe Morgan, are always somewhere doing some kind

PAGE 7

Last Wednesday, the food lance to pick him up. After he pantry gave out bags and boxes of food. A long line of people got food. I hope they you had, then your neighbor are thankful for the food.

Third Sunday, Rev. Melvin your neighbor had, then you Russell was installed as pas-"Growing up here, you had. We believed in shar- tor of M. Zion M.B. Church in Howard Bottom.

## PrEPped and REDy, Together We Can!



#### **New Garbage Service Starts** Tuesday, November 30, 2021 for all Lexington Residents

Dear City of Lexington Residents,

WM is proud to be your new garbage collection service provider.

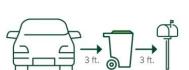
New 96-gallon wheeled carts with lids will be delivered on November 29 and 30. Wheeled carts are easy to move to the curb and lids keep waste contained and your community cleaner.

You may use your new cart or your existing cart for service on November 30. After that, only the WM cart will be serviced.

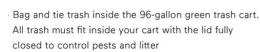
The new garbage pickup day for the City of Lexington will be Tuesday beginning November 30, 2021.

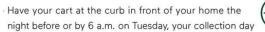
Please see the back side for proper cart placement.

Remember to place your carts at least 3 feet apart and 3 feet away from any obstacles (trees, cars,



nailboxes, etc.) to allow the automatic arm to lift and empty the carts. Place wheels of cart toward house.







ON'T:

No materials outside the cart will be collected

Household hazardous waste will not be collected

Veed an Extra Cart?

fou may order an extra cart for an additional charge Call the City of Lexington at (662) 834-4381.

