

## History

Mechanicsville Churches Emergency Functions or MCEF began in 1976 out of the desire of three Mechanicsville churches to combine their efforts to help families during the holiday season. Over the years, other churches joined with them to provide year-round emergency assistance to our neighbors in need. By 2003, a Food Pantry was opened at one of the churches which served about 40 families per month and Clothing Closets for infants, children, teens, women, and men were also housed in various Mechanicsville churches. In 2007, MCEF began providing Financial Assistance for utility bills, medicines and rent.

Community need and support continued to increase and the Food Pantry and Closet spaces in the churches became more and more cramped. Through the blessing of almost 40 churches, MCEF was able to bring all of these ministries together under one roof! The MCEF One Stop Shop opened in September 2017 and offers emergency food including eggs & fresh vegetables, clothing, linens, cooking demonstrations, and information about other resources that are available in the area. Today, MCEF is serving 200+ families per month through the One Stop Shop with an all-volunteer staff of over 150 men, women, and children donating their time and energy.

Acting on another chronic need in Mechanicsville, MCEF initiated the Hanover Senior Rides Program. Since July 2013, volunteers have provided rides in their personal vehicles to medical appointments, the grocery store, and other personal business for senior adults who can no longer drive. This program allows senior adults to continue living independently as long as they are physically able to care for themselves. Senior Rides has 28 volunteer drivers and ride coordinators that serve over 80 seniors and is currently providing more than 100 rides per month.

MCEF is a 501c3 charity that is supported by donations from churches, schools, businesses, and individuals.

Please visit our website at [www.4mcef.com](http://www.4mcef.com) for more information about this local mission that is making a difference in our community.