

TESTIMONY In SUPPORT OF KEEPING

OAKCHAPEL'S FOOD HUB OPEN

Dear Members of the Montgomery
County Council

My name is Valerie Mair a member of Oak Chapel United Methodist Church in Silver Spring Maryland. I am also a volunteer at the Food Hub.

Oak Chapel Food Hub was not included in the budget to be funded FY24. That means Oak Chapel will close its doors to the 500 families in 20906 zip code who relies on us weekly for various services.

20906 zip code was the most populated zip code in the entire state of Maryland in 2022 and is at the bottom of the list receiving services.

July 2022 Oak Chapel Hub opened as a choice style Pantry pivoting from drive thru contactless distribution.

500 families shop each week, we provide fresh produce, dairy, meat and canned goods

Baby diapers and wipes, feminine hygiene products and case management services.

An additional 100+ families are served through our offsite distribution at Harmony Hills E.S

Home deliveries to the elderly, sick and persons unable to visit the Hub.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. The Oak Chapel Food Hub needs to remain open to ensure that some of the most vulnerable residents of our community continues to receive our services.