

Bags of groceries help seniors in need

By JOEL LANDAU • Staff Writer • April 21, 2010

MILLVILLE -- The long lines at the Millville Housing Authority's senior housing complexes were not for the school elections Tuesday.

More than a hundred local seniors received food thanks to a new program between the Housing Authority and the Community FoodBank of New Jersey to deliver food to all of its five senior residences on the third Tuesday of every month. The authority started the program last month at Riverview East, Riverview West and Jaycee Plaza, and included Ferguson Court and Cedarview Court Tuesday.

MHA Senior Services Coordinator Dorothy Conti said she does health assessments regularly for the residents and many said they were not able to buy food.

"A lot of them ask for food, because they say they can't afford it," she said. "There is such a need. Because of the economy, they often have to choose between food and medicine."

The FoodBank prepared food for 133 people Tuesday, and its goal is 200 a month, said Carmen Mollineaux, charity development manager for the Egg Harbor Township office.

The office delivers food to 300 food pantries in Atlantic, Cumberland and Atlantic counties, Mollineaux said.

"Everyone has been real appreciative," she said. "It

definitely helps."

Residents received two large bags of canned goods, juice, cereal, cheese and bread.

Some of the residents are enrolled in the authority's Assisted Living Program that has aides help residents shop for food.

Polly Swink, property manager for Riverview West, said the program gives the seniors access to nutritional food and helps morale in the building. The program also helps some residents save money, making it easier for them to pay their rent, she said.

Resident Olive Otero said she appreciated the program because it's difficult to go out for food. With juice and cereal in her basket, Otero said she only needs to shop for meat.

"It's less for me to worry about," she said.



Seniors stand in line for food distributed by the Millville Housing Authority and Community FoodBank of New Jersey on Tuesday. (Staff photo/Craig Matthews)

AT A GLANCE

The Millville Housing Authority is supplying food to the residents of its five senior housing complexes on the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Dorothy Conti at (856) 293-0609, ext. 1019.