

God's Pantry Food Bank Food Pantry Program

God's Pantry Food Bank is an ecumenical, community-based, non-profit agency established to meet the needs of the hungry in central and eastern Kentucky. The Emergency Food Box Program, started in 1955, provides needy families in Fayette County with a 10+ day supply of nutritious food. A network of over 220 social service agencies and churches screen and refer over 1,700 households each month to our network of 4 neighborhood food pantries for food assistance.

Our food pantries are located at Pilgrim Baptist Church, Broadway Christian Church, Central Christian Church and St. Luke United Methodist. To keep costs down these churches generously provide the space, utilities and volunteers to operate the pantries. Our job is to keep them well stocked with food.

Recent service statistics has us **distributing an average of 140,000 pounds of food, 70 tons, almost 4 tractor trailer loads a month through those 4 locations. This is a combination of donated, purchased product and federal commodities.** *The recent increase in clients (800 households a month in 2007, over 1,700 households a month in 2011) due to the economy is making it a real challenge to keep the shelves stocked. Yet, we have not turned anyone away.* We rely on food drives from individuals, churches, schools, businesses and civic organizations to provide some of the food for this program.

The following lists food items that are always in demand. They have good shelf life and are easy to prepare for family meals.

- GRAIN: Cereal (hot or cold), macaroni & cheese, pasta, corn meal, flour, rice, baking mix.
- PROTEIN: Canned meat, peanut butter, dry or canned beans, instant milk
- VEGETABLE: Tomato product (stewed, paste, sauce, salsa, diced), instant or canned potatoes, canned vegetables, vegetable juice
- FRUIT: Canned fruit, fruit juice, dried fruit, raisins
- OTHER: Canned or dry soup, cooking oil, salt & pepper, coffee, baby food, baby formula, catsup, mustard, relish, sugar, Pretzels, trail mix, cookies or other snack items

Having an ample supply of these staple items enables us to use donated money to purchase perishable items (eggs, meat, margarine, bread, fresh produce) for this program.

