



Food for Thought

together, we are hunger's hope.

Fall 2009

A Season for Giving ...

The holidays are upon us once again! For many of us, this means gatherings with family and friends...celebrating this year's triumphs and looking forward to next year's plans.

But for many families, the holidays are just another reminder of the tough decisions they face. A normal day brings choices of paying rent or buying food, putting gas in the car or meals on the table. But the holidays just complicate matters for more than 300,000 people living in poverty in central and eastern Kentucky.

Throughout the year, God's Pantry Food Bank serves more than 160,000 individuals in 50 counties of central and eastern Kentucky, distributing much-needed grocery items through soup kitchens, shelters, and emergency food pantries.

Hunger is an epidemic we are fighting year-round, but as the holiday season approaches, and with the continuing economic crisis, there are many families who are at risk of having nothing at all to

eat for Thanksgiving, much less a special holiday meal.

Sharing Thanksgiving is designed to help relieve the stress of the holidays for those whose finances may not allow them to enjoy a celebratory meal.

For as little as \$40, your help can provide a Thanksgiving meal to a Kentucky family struggling to make ends meet.

So please encourage your family, colleagues, religious groups and clubs to give during this time of celebration, and share Thanksgiving with a family in need.

Your support of Sharing Thanksgiving means more than just a bountiful holiday meal; it means hope and blessings for hungry families that will last beyond the holiday season.



What's in a Thanksgiving Box?

Instant Mashed Potatoes
Stuffing Mix
Cake Mix
Canned Green Beans
Canned Asparagus
Canned Corn
Canned Assorted Vegetables
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Canned Peaches
Canned Pineapple
Canned Sweet Potatoes
Corn Muffin Mix
Gravy Mix
Cookies
Other Assorted Snacks

All non-perishable items are packed at the Basket Brigade on November 14 and the following is added before distribution:

A 12 to 14 lb. Turkey
An onion
A dozen eggs
1 pound margarine

To all who made our Thanksgivings possible,

I am writing today to express my appreciation to all of those who made it possible for my family and I to have a Thanksgiving dinner.

I was laid off just a couple of weeks ago and I am a single mother of three young children with no family in the state. I go from working and living paycheck to paycheck to nothing and still having to try to find a way to provide for the ones that depend on me. I want all to know that it is because of people like you that make things possible for those who find themselves in a bind with no warning.

I can write this letter and you read it, but you will not ever possibly know how much it truly meant to me to know there are people who care about others enough to donate food so others can eat. Words cannot express my gratitude.

Thank you.

A grateful client (December 1, 2008)

a letter from the president



We always thought the Farms to Food Banks Program was a good idea. Now I am certain of it. In case you missed the news reports, this is a state-supported program to buy fresh produce from Kentucky farmers and make it available to food banks, that would in turn distribute it to families in need. The key is that the product purchased would be produce that might otherwise be wasted because it is not of retail quality. That is a politically correct way of saying that some of this produce might otherwise be thrown away or left to rot in the field.

The reason I am now certain this is a good idea is because of the results after 14 weeks of a pilot study run by God's Pantry Food Bank to test the viability of the program. In this period, God's Pantry has purchased more than 147,000 pounds of produce and successfully distributed it to people in need through 74 different agencies. Up to 17 different crops can be bought as part of the pilot program, including apples, tomatoes, and peaches, which are rarely available to food pantries. Most of the purchases have been made through produce auctions in Lincoln and Bath Counties, while some smaller purchases have been made directly from local farmers. The pilot will run for 16 weeks. Publicity surrounding the program has resulted in some gleaning opportunities – Fallbrook Farm in Woodford County allowed members of the Lexington Urban Gleaning Network to pick 1,900 pounds of sweet corn at their farm.

The Farms to Food Banks Program was established by the Legislature in House Bill 344. The next step will be to get funding approved in the next session of the General Assembly. Please call your state senator and representative.

It is time to thank some people. House Bill 344 was enthusiastically sponsored by Rep. Thomas McKee, Chair of the Agriculture and Small Business Committee. The bill was passed 38 to 0 in the Senate and 90 to 0 in the House (10 didn't vote). We thank all of you.

Then there are those who put up hard cash for the pilot study:

- The Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas Counties and the Kentucky River Foothills Development Council
- The Agriculture Development Councils in Bath, Clark, Fayette, Lincoln, Pulaski and Scott Counties
- The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (part of the Governor's Office of Agriculture Policy)
- Feeding America



We couldn't have done it without you.

John Burkhard

Mark Your Calendar



Monday, November 9

Monday, January 11

Monday, February 8

Monday, March 8

Visit godspantry.org

or contact Susie at

859-288-5332 for

more information.



Friday, May 21, 2010

30th Annual
Taste of the Bluegrass

Food Bank Honors Volunteers and Donors



Left: Mindy Barfield, former President of the Board of Directors, was honored for lending her legal expertise over the years.

God's Pantry Food Bank celebrated Hunger Action Month in September with its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Reception. Held at the warehouse facility on September 17, more than 100 Food Bank supporters were on hand to celebrate some standouts from our past fiscal year.

Special thanks to Shannon Gritton for providing the entertainment and Kroger, Second Presbyterian Church, John Conti Coffee & Tea and Republic National Distributing for helping make this year's event a success.

This year's honorees were:

- Lowell Atchley** - The "Legislese" Award
- Mindy Barfield** - The Consummate Counselor Award
- Junior League of Lexington** - The League Leaders Award
- The Klausing Group** - The Yards Above the Rest Award
- Kroger** - The "Right Store, Right Price" Award
- M&M Sanitation** - The Give & Take Award
- Representative Tom McKee** - The Kentucky Proud Award
- Pat Byrne Printing** - The Hot Off the Press Award
- Quest Community Church** - The Quest is Best Award
- Randolph Scott** - The Head HOG Award
- Tom & Holly Wade Family** - The Hunger Heroes Award
- Woodward, Hobson & Fulton** - The Motion to Suppress Hunger Award



Right: Pilgrim Baptist Church pantry volunteer Annie Maxberry enjoyed visiting with Linda Lancaster, community services coordinator at God's Pantry Food Bank.

Did you know?

One in every five Kentucky children faces each day uncertain of where they will get their next meal.

God's Pantry has seen a 32% increase in demand for service in its Lexington pantries in the past year.

The food bank distributed more than 17 million pounds of food to hungry Kentuckians last year.



Clients are living on average annual incomes of \$9,500. In fact, 74% of households have monthly incomes of less than \$1,000.

The 2009 Basket Brigade is Almost Here

On **Saturday, November 14**, God's Pantry Food Bank will host the 5th annual Basket Brigade. This event is held to pack 4,400 boxes to provide low-income families in Fayette County with a Thanksgiving meal to enjoy.

The event, organized like a walk-a-thon, is broken up into five shifts of participants. Each group will pack between 700-900 boxes which include all the non-perishable items necessary to prepare a Thanksgiving meal. Those boxes are paired with a turkey, eggs and produce the week of Thanksgiving and distributed to hungry families in Fayette County through our six pantries.

More information on the event is available www.godspantry.org.

We are grateful to the generous sponsors of the 5th annual Brigade!

This year's Basket Brigade sponsors are:



God's Pantry Food Bank, Inc.
1685 Jaggie Fox Way
Lexington, KY 40511-1084
859.255.6592
www.godspantry.org



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Giving the Perfect Gift ...

Everyone loves the holiday season, but loathes the traffic and long lines at the mall. God's Pantry Food Bank has the perfect solution. This holiday season, avoid the crowds and make a gift to the food bank in honor or memory of a friend or loved one. In return, we'll notify your loved one with a lovely card.

You can help hungry families in need and save your sanity. For more information, call 859-255-6592.



... is Easy!

fall 2009
newsletter