



Food for Thought

together, we are hunger's hope.

Spring 2010

Food Bank Reaching 1 in 7 in Area



Hunger in Central and Eastern Kentucky, a report released in February, reports that more than 211,000 people receive emergency food each year through God's Pantry Food Bank. With a population of approximately 1.4 million people in the 50-county service area, that means that the food bank is currently providing food to 1 in 7 people. Simply astounding.

God's Pantry Food Bank takes part in this study, the largest national study of hunger and the charitable response to hunger, every four years. This report shows the food bank is reaching 33 percent more people than in 2006 and has increased its food distribution by 42 percent.

"The results of this report are both astonishing and encouraging," said Marian Guinn, CEO of God's Pantry Food Bank. "To know that we are reaching 1 in 7 people in our 50-county service area encourages us to continue

working to reduce hunger. However, this report also shows us that the need for assistance has grown exponentially in the last four years. We know there is still so much more work to be done to improve the quality of life of our neighbors in need."

Highlights of the report include:

- The average annual household income for clients was \$13,070 and the average household size was 2.8 people. The average income increased from \$9,500 in 2006 but is still well below the federal poverty level of \$18,310 for a family of three.
- 27% of households have one or more adults employed.
- 41.2% of all client households include children and one in every three of those households are single-parent families.
- 18 percent of client households include someone age 65 or older.
- The number of homeless clients (8%) doubled from the 2006 report.

"It is morally reprehensible that we live in the wealthiest nation in the world where one in six people are struggling to make choices between food and other basic necessities," said Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of Feeding America. "These are choices that no one should have to make, but particularly households with children. Insufficient nutrition has adverse effects on the physical, behavioral and mental health, and academic performance of children. It is critical that we ensure that no child goes to bed hungry in America as they truly are our engine of economic growth and future vitality."

As part of the study, God's Pantry Food Bank conducted face-to-face interviews with 427 people seeking emergency food at food pantries, soup kitchens and other emergency feeding programs, as well as interviews with more than 208 agencies that provide food assistance.

How Can You Help?

GIVE

Donate your time or services to God's Pantry Food Bank or one of its member agencies working to help those in need in our 50-county service area. To make a secure online donation or to find an agency in your area, visit www.godspantry.org.

ADVOCATE

Voice your support of programs that support hungry families to your elected officials. A great way to be engaged is through www.hungeractioncenter.org.

VOLUNTEER

Donate your time and talents to a charitable feeding agency. For more information, visit our website!

a letter from the president



I recently attended a conference organized by Feeding America, the network of more than 200 food banks across America. A number of studies show that people retain very little of what they hear at a conference and then forget the rest in a few months. I decided to make an effort to remember just a few things. The best quote I heard was, “Hunger is a disaster that happens every day.”

Kentuckians have shown that they are very generous when it comes to disasters. Hurricane Katrina, the tsunami in Southeast Asia, the recent earthquakes in Haiti and the floods in eastern Kentucky, all brought out major contributions of volunteer hours and money. My sister will make her second trip to Haiti later this month. God’s Pantry Food Bank had record donations at the height of the recession when many non-profit organizations experienced a decline in giving. It was a good thing, because we provided food to more than 200,000 people in central and eastern Kentucky last year. About 60% of all client households included children or senior citizens. These are people who haven’t yet had a chance at life or who are out of options because they are elderly, sometimes sick and on fixed incomes.

Even though the recession is fading from the news and things seem to be getting better, we still need your support. In central and eastern Kentucky, the effects of the economic downturn continue to be felt. We are seeing new faces in our pantries, kitchens and shelters who are dealing with unemployment and underemployment. For these Kentuckians, hunger is a disaster that happens every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "John Burkhard".

President, Board of Directors

Our Volunteers Make It Happen



Above: This young “packer” donated his time off school to God’s Pantry Food Bank’s Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event in January.

Right: This group of Transylvania students spent their spring break doing community service projects. They sorted food in the warehouse on March 13 to kick off their week.



Left: Barbara Hamilton and family participate in the Basket Brigade each year in honor of her late husband, J.D.

Taste of the Bluegrass is May 21



A longtime Lexington tradition is celebrating a big birthday this year. God's Pantry Food Bank is proud to present the 30th annual **Taste of the Bluegrass** on Friday, May 21, at the Keene Barn & Entertainment Center at Keeneland. The event, which also benefits the Kentucky Restaurant Association Bluegrass Chapter's Scholarship Fund, annually showcases the best food and beverage in the

Bluegrass and features great live bands and a fantastic silent auction.



Restaurants appearing in this year's event include: Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy; American Culinary Federation; BabyCakes Cupcakes; bd's Mongolian Grill; Blue Bell Creameries; Dad's Favorites; deSha's Restaurant; The Fresh Market; Furlong's; Giuseppe's Ristorante Italiano; Great Harvest Bread Company; Hilton Suites of Lexington Green; Historic Boone Tavern; Holly Hill Inn; Jewel's Southern Comfort; JW's Steakhouse; Kern's Kitchen; Kroger; Louisiana Passion; The Melting Pot; Nova Gourmet; Old Talbott Tavern; The Pub; Rossi's; Saponi D'Italia; The Sugar Forest; Three Suns Bistro; Tinker's Cake Shop; Triangle Grille and Turf Catering.

Beverage distributors lined up for the event are Acres of Land Winery; Alltech's Lexington Brewing Company; Buffalo Trace Distillery; Chrisman Mill Vineyards; Clark Distributing; Coca-Cola; Elk Creek Vineyards; Equus Run Vineyard; Four Roses Distillery; Heidelberg Distributing; John Conti Coffee; Kentucky Eagle Beer; Lovers Leap Winery; Maker's Mark; MonTea; Pepsi Cola of Lexington; Rooibee Red Tea; and Southern Wine & Spirits.



Silent auction items already secured include: four tickets and club passes to a Lexington Legends home game; six passes to Keeneland's 2010 fall meet; a two night getaway from Kentucky State Parks; Kings Island tickets and much more.

Tickets for the 2010 Taste of the Bluegrass are on sale now at all Lexington Central Bank, Joseph-Beth, Kroger and Liquor Barn locations. Tickets are \$65 per person (\$40 of which is tax deductible and the price includes alcoholic beverages.) Tickets will also be available for purchase by calling God's Pantry Food Bank at 859.255.6592.

Shout Outs

Thanks to Feeding America and the Lincy Foundation for our newest truck, valued at more than \$90,000, which joined the God's Pantry fleet in October.



Thanks to the following organizations for their support of programs targeting childhood hunger:

- AT&T Foundation (\$5,000 Backpack)
- Food Lion (\$10,000 Backpack)
- The Jerome Alexander Foundation (\$20,000 Kids Cafe/BackPack)
- Orphan Society of Lexington (\$10,000 to support Kids Cafe and \$1,000 for Backpack)
- Second Presbyterian Church (\$3,000 Kids Cafe)
- TJX Foundation (\$5,000 Backpack)

In addition, God's Pantry Food Bank received a \$5,000 donation for its Kids Cafe program from country superstars Tim McGraw & Faith Hill's Neighbor's Keeper Fund in conjunction with McGraw's February concert at Rupp Arena in Lexington.

Founded in 2004 out of the couple's desire to help people in need and encourage the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, Neighbor's Keeper seeks to strengthen communities by contributing to projects with primary emphasis on children's initiatives.



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spring 2010
 newsletter

THIS SPELLS
 HELP FOR LOTS OF
 FAMILIES THIS
 YEAR!



LETTER CARRIERS'
FOOD DRIVE
SAT. MAY 8, '10



PUT YOUR NON-PERISHABLE DONATION
 IN A BAG BY YOUR MAILBOX.
 WE'LL DELIVER IT TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK.



NATIONAL PARTNERS



Golf Fore the Hungry 2010 is August 29-30

The 7th annual Golf Fore the Hungry is slated for Aug. 29-30. The event begins with a dinner and silent auction at NorthEast Christian Church on Sunday evening, followed by a day of golf at the championship courses of the University Club of Kentucky on Monday.

For information on dinner reservations, playing in the tournament or becoming a sponsor of this great event, contact Susie at 859.288.5332 or susie@godspantry.org, or visit the Golf Fore the Hungry website.



www.golfforethehungry.org



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