



Food for Thought

together, we are hunger's hope.

Spring 2009



Start Your Summer with A Taste of the Bluegrass

God's Pantry Food Bank and the Kentucky Restaurant Association will present the 29th annual Taste of the Bluegrass Friday, May 29, 2009 at Keeneland's Keene Barn & Entertainment Center in Lexington.

This longstanding Lexington event is the perfect way to kick off the summer while enjoying the best food and drinks in the Bluegrass.

This year's event begins at 7 p.m. and again features two live bands, including local favorite Caught Red Handed playing until 11 p.m. in the outdoor tent and Dan Jackson's Magic entertaining guests in the Entertainment Center all evening.

Restaurants already committed for this year's event include: Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy, American

Culinary Foundation, Baby Cakes Cupcakes, Blue Bell Creameries, Bonefish Grill, Bourbon n' Toulouse, The Fresh Market, Guiseppe's Ristorante Italiano, Great Harvest Bread Company, Hilton Suites Lexington Green, Historic Boone Tavern, Holly Hill Inn, Jewel's Southern Comfort, JW's Steakhouse, Kern's Kitchen, Kroger Chef Shops, Louisiana Passion, Martine's Pastries, The Melting Pot, Nagasaki Inn, The Pub of Lexington, Ricardo's, Rossi's, Saul Good, Sullivan University, Tinker's Cake Shop, Turf Catering, Vina's and Whole Foods Market.

Beverage distributors include Acres of Land Winery, Alltech's Lexington Brewing Company, Buffalo Trace Distillery, Clark Distributing, Bluegrass Coca-Cola Bottling, Chrisman Mill Vineyards & Winery, Elk Creek Vineyards, Elmwood Inn Fine Teas, Equus Run Vineyards, Four Roses Bourbon, Horseshoe Bend Winery, John Conti Coffee, Kentucky Eagle Beer, Lovers Leap Vineyards & Winery, Maker's Mark Distillery, McLain & Kyne Distillery, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, Pure Blue Vodka, Southern Wine & Spirits and Talon Winery.

Silent auction items already secured include tickets to a UK men's basketball game and a UK football game and tours of each team's training facilities, a John Carloffis-designed birdhouse and autographed book, a box at Keeneland's fall meet and six club passes, and tickets to the Lexington Ballet's production of The Nutcracker.

Tickets for the 2009 Taste of the Bluegrass go on sale Monday, May 4 at all Central Kentucky 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 also will be available for purchase by calling God's Pantry Food Bank at 859-255-6592 beginning May 4.



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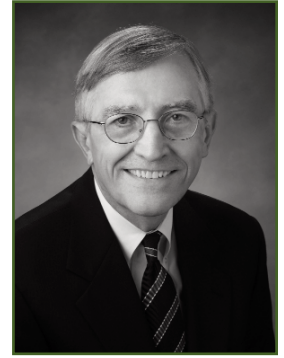
a letter from the president

At God's Pantry, we are taking part in a nationwide hunger study by interviewing clients across our 50-county service area. We already know the answer – not good. Most people are just about saturated with recession news. It has gone past the news media into TV talk shows, dramas, and sitcoms. That's because this is a deep and painful recession with many side issues. It may last longer than usual, but at this point, it has been with us about a year.

In most of Eastern Kentucky, the recession is years old. It started when light manufacturing and clothing producers started moving to Mexico and Asia. Oshkosh, Fruit-of-the-Loom and Hallmark disappeared leaving large empty buildings owned by local investors and county governments. These buildings are now keeping company with empty tobacco warehouses.

I recently interviewed three people in Pike County – an unemployed veteran who got his purple heart in Vietnam, an elderly man who was disabled years ago in a mining accident, and a single mother of three. Add to that the working poor and you have a pretty good cross-section of the people who need an emergency food box from one of our agencies.

We believe we are under serving much of Eastern Kentucky based on the pounds of food we deliver compared with the number of people in poverty reported in US Government statistics (most believe these statistics substantially understate poverty numbers). We are working on ways to do a better job. It takes hard-working volunteers and money. We have the volunteers.



John Burkhard

Snapshots!



This year our Mobile Pantry Program is reaching out to Harrison County with food each month.



Governor Steve Beshear recognized Hunger Action Month at a ceremony in the capitol rotunda in September.



CEO Marian Guinn was named the first-ever recipient of the UK Nonprofit Leadership Initiative's Distinguished Nonprofit Leadership Award last fall.



God's Pantry Food Bank distributed nearly 4,000 food boxes and frozen turkeys to Fayette County families in need through the Sharing Thanksgiving program. Here is one very happy recipient.

Hunger in America 2009

God's Pantry Food Bank is currently engaged with Feeding America in Hunger in America 2009, the largest study of domestic hunger in existence. This year, 185 food banks across the country are participating in the study, the most ever.

"We know that our member agencies are seeing record numbers of people seeking out service, some for the first time in their lives," said Marian Guinn, God's Pantry Food Bank CEO. "This study will help us understand what factors have effected these families and caused them to reach out for help."

The Hunger in America survey is done every four years. Across the nation, food bank staff and volunteers are conducting 45,000 face-to-face interviews with people who use food banks. God's Pantry Food Bank began surveying clients in February and expects to complete more than 400 one-on-one interviews by the time the sampling period closes on April 26.

Mathematica Policy Research is facilitating the survey and will compile national results as well as regional information for participating food banks over the next several months. God's Pantry Food Bank will publicize those results later this year.

HUNGER — IN — AMERICA 2009

dates to remember

May 7-8
Christian Radio Stations
Radio-Thon
1250 AM, 770 AM, 99.1 FM

May 9
Letter Carrier's
Food Drive
Leave non-perishable
food items in your
mailbox today!

May 29
Taste of the Bluegrass
Keeneland

August 30-31
Golf Fore the Hungry
www.golfforethehungry.org

September 13
Burgers N Bikes
Man O'War Harley
Davidson Store

September 27
Crop Walk
Downtown Lexington
www.lexingtoncropwalk.
blogspot.com

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(donor's name follows; gifts given between September 2008 - March 2009)

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spring 2009
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Summer Grilling Classes Set



This year's What's Cooking on the Grill? classes are sure to be a fun part of this summer. Local chefs prepare their signature dishes for participants in an al fresco setting at various locations around the Bluegrass. Each chef prepares three dishes - an appetizer, entree & dessert - and participants are able to

sample each dish and enjoy some great local spirits.

This year's schedule is:

June 11 - Azur Restaurant Chef Jeremy Ashby at Talon Winery

July 9 - Holly Hill Inn Chef Ouita Michel at Woodford Reserve

August 13 - A.P. Roots Chef Robert Myers at Equus Run Vineyards

The classes begin at 7:00 p.m. Advance registration is required and the cost is \$40 per person. To sign up for any of this year's grilling classes, contact Susie Basham at (859) 288-5332 or via email (susie@godspantry.org).

Exciting News from the Capitol

In January, the Kentucky Association of Second Harvest Food Banks, which includes seven Feeding America food banks serving the entire state, began work on the Farms to Food Banks program, a program to enable food banks to purchase surplus, Kentucky-grown fresh fruits and vegetables at production cost or less and to facilitate the donation of surplus agricultural commodities from Kentucky farmers in order to distribute them to low-income Kentucky families in need.

With the unparalleled support of Representative Tom McKee of Harrison County, House Bill 344, which put in place statutory language so that funding could be pursued in a budget year in Frankfort, sailed through both the House and the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Steve Beshear in March.

God's Pantry Food Bank is currently in the process of soliciting funding for a pilot program for this summer's growing season to better gauge the overall funding and planning necessary to take the program statewide in 2010. If you are interested in helping fund this pilot program, contact Kristin at 859-288-5328.