



# Food for Thought

together, we are hunger's hope.

Fall 2010

## Finding Ways to Fill the Gaps

The task of feeding hungry families is hard, labor-intensive work. Last year, more than 17.8 million pounds of food was distributed through God's Pantry Food Bank's distribution center and eventually into the hands of hungry children, elderly neighbors and families struggling to survive.

Before that food every reaches its final destination, it is moved through our network of more than 320 member agencies. More than 74% of those agencies - which range from soup kitchens to pantries, shelters to senior care centers - are staffed entirely by volunteers.

These caring individuals spend countless hours loading and unloading boxes, carrying food to client's cars, unpacking a truck at a drop delivery site, only to load it into their station wagon or pickup trucks, drive back to the pantry and stock the shelves.

When people ask us how things are going at God's Pantry Food Bank, we are sad to say that "business is good,"



but pleased to share news of the great strides we are making to fill the gaps for the more than 310,000 people living in poverty in the 50 counties we serve.

As we look for ways to meet the ever-increasing need, we know that making

fresh produce available is one of the best types of food we can put in the hands of hungry Kentuckians. Last year, the food bank distributed just over three million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables. This year, God's Pantry looks to double that number.

This initiative is costly and labor intensive, but essential. Moving perishable product increases our need for refrigerated storage, stresses our already busy fleet of vehicles and is simply hard work.

But it is needed. Our overarching goal is to reach every person in need in our service area, which numbers more than 310,000 people, and provide them with healthy and delicious foods. A task this bold will not come without the support of friends like you who see the need and wish to provide hope in sometimes hopeless situations.

## Sharing Thanksgiving



As the weather begins to turn cooler, our minds turn to another holiday season. For many of us, this means gatherings with family and friends, giving thanks for another year.

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 211,000 people, 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, with the economy still in trouble, there are many families who are at risk of having nothing at all to eat for Thanksgiving, much less a special holiday meal.

The Sharing Thanksgiving program is designed to help relieve the stress of the holidays for those whose finances may not allow them to enjoy a celebratory meal. For just \$40, you 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.

# a letter from the president



As we move out of the summer months and into the fall, the mission at God's Pantry Food Bank gains perhaps its most visibility with the preparation and distribution of food boxes for the hungry over Thanksgiving. This is an effort that requires much commitment and also brings a world of good to the clients we serve. What is currently not as visible or apparent is the growing daily need to provide emergency food to those in need. We are all aware of what is going on in the world and in particular the escalating number of people who are out of work. Things appear to be getting better in the financial markets, however, high unemployment is not improving with the markets. Unfortunately, when people are out of work, the mission of God's Pantry expands exponentially.

As a result, God's Pantry is busting at the seams to intake and deliver food to our agencies to help meet the need. This summer, we purchased a warehouse in Winchester to increase our storage and also provide a better location to serve the eastern part of the Commonwealth. We were fortunate to find such a facility

in a great location but that doesn't solve all of the capacity

issues – the need is still growing.

Late this summer and into the fall we are launching a capital campaign to make sure we have the resources to help continue a high level of service in the war against hunger. It is truly an exciting opportunity to enter into this as the need has never been higher and the impact we can make on our communities is great. We look forward to reaching out to our donors and volunteers and seek their assistance in running a successful campaign and continuing to execute on our mission of feeding more people.

I'm excited to take over as Board President of God's Pantry Food Bank and look forward to working closely with Marian Guinn and the entire staff and Board of Directors. I'd like to thank John Burkhard for his three years of loyal and expert leadership as President and am glad that he is staying actively involved with the capital campaign. It's great to have past leaders to help keep moving us forward and we are blessed to have others in addition to John. And as always, I'd like to thank the donors and volunteers who make it possible for us to provide the services we do. Without you, it wouldn't be possible and I truly hope you stay committed as we move through these continually challenging times.

Sincerely,



President, Board of Directors



*Our new Winchester warehouse*

## Snapshots!



*This group of golfers had a blast at the skirt hole during the 2010 Golf Fore the Hungry event at the University Club of Kentucky on August 30.*



*Marian Guinn presents the Judges' Best Award for Best Non-Alcoholic Beverage to Rooibee Red Tea for its Watermelon Mint Tea at this year's Taste of the Bluegrass.*

## Making Connections

Friendships are often formed through unlikely associations. In the winter of 2008, Teresa Apel of Ivel, Kentucky, contacted God's Pantry Food Bank because she wanted to submit our organization as a possible recipient for her company's annual charity golf tournament. She knew of us because her husband, Dr. Bill Loftus, who teaches at Big Sandy Community and Technical College, had spearheaded food and funds drives for several years as advisor to Phi Theta Kappa. The folks at Appalachian Wireless, where Teresa works, had never heard of God's Pantry Food Bank, and likewise, we didn't know them – surprising since we both do so much for eastern Kentucky.

Appalachian Wireless chose God's Pantry Food Bank as the beneficiary of that year's Annual Charity Golf Event and donated the more than \$10,000 they raised, but their generosity didn't end there. Teresa's simple suggestion has helped our two organizations develop a partnership that has benefited our neighbors in need in Eastern Kentucky in so many ways.



Thanks to Teresa, we met Danny VanHoose, Director of Marketing for Appalachian Wireless, who became a member of our first Regional Advisory Board. When flooding devastated the area in May 2009, Danny connected us with organizers of relief fundraisers, helping us bring in \$17,000 that was used to offset expenses related to our emergency assistance to the area.

Danny, who loves Eastern Kentucky and helping others, continues to be a key link for us in meeting media officials, business executives, and community leaders, as we work to raise awareness of the work we are doing. This has included continued involvement in the Charity Golf Event, the addition of Ashley Litteral to our regional advisory board, and the opportunity to make even more connections in the future. Teresa and Bill hoped to have a small, one-time effect, but their suggestion continues to help us reach those in need and those who want to support our efforts in the area.

If your company would like to discuss developing a partnership with God's Pantry Food Bank please contact Rebecca Wallace at 859-288-5325.

## Dream Dinner Drawing

God's Pantry Food Bank is offering its supporters a once in a lifetime chance for a Dream Dinner! The food bank is selling \$5 raffle tickets for a pretty magical prize - A Kentucky Proud dinner for eight people prepared by the Governor's Mansion chefs at Castle Post in Versailles.



The drawing for this culinary treat will take place at the Incredible Food Show at Rupp Arena on Sunday, Oct. 24 (need not be present to win.) Tickets are on sale now at [www.godspantry.org](http://www.godspantry.org) or by calling 859-255-6592. Tickets will also be sold at the Incredible Food Show Oct. 23-24 and at the

Kentucky Proud Market in

the Lexington Civic Center from now until Oct. 23. A maximum of 4,000 raffle tickets will be sold.

Don't miss your chance to dine on great Kentucky foods prepared by the Governor's personal chefs at a fabled and fancy Central Kentucky landmark!



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/godspantryfoodbank](http://www.facebook.com/godspantryfoodbank)

## Shop for a Cause

God's Pantry Food Bank and Macy's are teaming up again this year, offering supporters the chance to Shop for a Cause!

From now until October 16, you can purchase a special Macy's coupon book from God's Pantry for \$5. The food bank keeps all of the proceeds from the sale of these coupons.



When you use these special coupons at Shop for a Cause at all Macy's Department Stores on Saturday, October 16, 2010, you will receive 20% (or 10%)

savings on almost all of your purchases, including regular, sale and clearance merchandise, and 25% off a single item. And, customers will be eligible to win a \$500 gift card, no purchase necessary.





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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 honoree with a lovely card.

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



**... is Easy!**

## Rent A Center Donates \$20,000



In challenging economic times when many companies are reducing or curtailing community service initiatives, Rent-A-Center (RAC) donated \$20,000 to food banks across the country in September, national Hunger Action Month, and God's Pantry Food Bank was pleased to receive a \$20,000 gift.

This is part of the national Rent-A-Center Soup to Nuts campaign, designed to help food pantries across the nation continue to meet the increasing demand for their services.

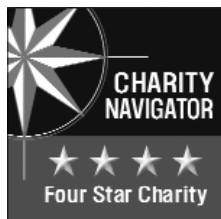
Rent-A-Center, Inc., headquartered in Plano, Texas, currently operates approximately 3,000 company-owned stores nationwide and in Canada and Puerto Rico.

## USDA Grants Food Bank \$250,000

God's Pantry Food Bank recently learned we will be receiving \$250,000 from the United States Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service! The funding will go toward the purchase of a semi tractor and trailer and a pallet jack to travel on the truck. A portion of the award will also be used to pay the salary of the truck's driver.

This award, part of The Emergency Food Assistance Program Rural Infrastructure grant program, supports Targeting Rural Hunger, God's Pantry's efforts toward moving more food and grocery product into the 44 rural counties of our 50-county service area.

This will be the first semi tractor and trailer purchased by God's Pantry, and will be the largest vehicle in our fleet. Currently, when deliveries beyond the capacity of our largest truck are required, two vehicles are sent to the destination or other trucking companies are hired. The addition of the new vehicle, with a capacity of 45,000 pounds, will allow God's Pantry to take larger orders to our Prestonsburg warehouse or other rural areas for single location food pick-ups by nearby affiliated agencies.



### Did You Know?

God's Pantry Food Bank has once again been named a  
**Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator!**  
 Read more at [charitynavigator.org](http://charitynavigator.org).