



# Food for Thought

together, we are hunger's hope.

Spring 2011

## Taste of the Bluegrass is May 20

Summer is coming and you know what that means! So is the **Taste of the Bluegrass!** This year's event, sponsored by Quantrell Auto Group, is Friday, May 20 at the Keene Barn & Entertainment Center at Keeneland. The event, presented by God's Pantry Food Bank, also benefitting the Kentucky Restaurant Association Bluegrass Chapter's Scholarship Fund, annually showcases the best food and beverage in the Bluegrass and features music from two live bands and a fantastic silent auction.

Restaurants appearing in this year's event include: Abuelo's Mexican Food Embassy; Alltech's Angus; American



Culinary Federation; Azur; BabyCakes Cupcakes; bd's Mongolian Grill; Blue Bell Creameries; Crowne Plaza Campbell House; Dad's Favorites; deSha's Restaurant & Bar; The Fresh Market; Embassy Suites; Giuseppe's Ristorante Italiano; Good Foods Market and Cafe; Goodfellas Pizza; Great Harvest Bread Company; Historic Boone Tavern; JW's Steakhouse; Kern's Kitchen; La Petite Creperie; Lexington Pasta Company; Louisiana Passion; Naked Pizza; Nova Gourmet; Old Talbott Tavern; Red State Bar-b-Que; She Bakes Cakes; The Soup Kitchen; Sullivan University; Tinker's Cake Shop; Triangle Grille; Trust Lounge; Turf Catering and Type A Catering.

Beverage distributors lined up for the event are Acres of Land Winery; Alltech's Kentucky Ale; Alltech's Spirits & Coffee; Bigg Blue Martini; 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 Bourbon Distillers; Kentucky Eagle Beer; Lovers Leap Winery; Maker's Mark; MonTea; Pepsi Cola of Lexington; Rooibee Red Tea; Southern Wine & Spirits; Talon Winery and WineStyles.

Silent auction items already secured include a Cincinnati Reds getaway weekend, a suite and food for a Lexington Legends home game, UK Football tickets, spa treatments from Alure Salon & Spa, a Kentucky State Parks getaway and a framed print and box seats from Keeneland.

Tickets for the 2011 Taste of the Bluegrass are on sale now at [www.godspantry.org](http://www.godspantry.org) or at all Lexington Central Bank and Kroger locations. Tickets are \$75 per person (\$50 of which is tax-deductible and includes alcoholic beverages.)



The 2011 Taste of the Bluegrass is sponsored by:

Tent Sponsored By: **Kentucky Proud**

Band Sponsored By: **Dinsmores&Shohl LLP ATTORNEYS**

# a letter from the president



Feeding America, a network of more than 200 food banks like God's Pantry, recently released a landmark study called "Map the Meal Gap." The study takes a look at 'meals' in a whole new way, using county-level data on food costs from The Nielsen Company to break down the food budget shortfall of our residents into an approximation of the meals missing from the tables of people at risk of hunger in every region of America.

The results were not surprising for the 50-county area served by God's Pantry Food Bank. While the average cost of a meal in Kentucky (\$2.34) is below the national average (\$2.54), food insecurity\* rates in our area are among the highest in the nation. In fact, in Magoffin County, 27.7% of residents are considered food insecure, the most of any Kentucky county. Folks in Martin County are dealing with higher food costs than most Americans (\$2.91 per meal) and a food insecurity rate of 23.1%.

Simply speaking, these are not the statistical categories any state wants to lead. But this data is important for a variety of reasons. First, this is the first time information about this topic has been available for congressional districts and this data has the potential to redefine the way service providers and policy makers address areas of need. Second, it allows us to see some of the obstacles our clients are facing in regards to food costs.

I challenge each of you to spend time looking at this very interesting data and the interactive map which shows county-by-county data at [feedingamerica.org/mapthegap](http://feedingamerica.org/mapthegap).

As always, thank you for your support as we continue working to reduce hunger in Kentucky. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Jennings". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Board of Directors

*\*Food insecurity is a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.*

## Great Corporate Volunteer Opportunity

Do you work at a company which grants its employees with paid time off to volunteer in the community? Well, we have a great way to help you take advantage of that opportunity.

We are also looking for groups of 8-12 people to work 2-3 hour shifts in our repack room. These groups will help us take bulk amounts of food product and repackage it into more family-friendly sizes.

Since beginning this "new" activity in October, we have repacked granola cereal (from 1,000-pound boxes into two-pound bags!), flour, pasta, pinto beans and lots of other exciting products. We've found that corporate groups love this activity and find it especially beneficial in regards to team building.

We would love to meet with your organization to discuss a possible partnership. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Mandy Brajuha at 859-288-5324 or via email ([mandy@godspantry.org](mailto:mandy@godspantry.org)).



# Helping Fill the Plate

As supporters of the food bank, you know that we are working tirelessly to reduce hunger in Kentucky and make sure that all of our neighbors have access to the basic necessity of food.

What you may not realize is the span of our network of member agencies - we are working with more than 320 nonprofit agencies in 50 counties of Central and Eastern Kentucky every day to help families in need fill their plates.

These agencies range from Lewis County south to Harlan, from Boyle County to Pikeville and everywhere in between. The nonprofits range from afterschool programs like the Anderson County Backpack Buddies program to meal delivery programs like the Grayson Meals on Wheels operation.



Our network is the "boots on the ground" teams of people doing the laborous and exhaustive work of feeding people in need. They are up at dawn traveling to one of our distribution centers or meeting our trucks for a drop delivery, spending the better part of their

day stocking pantry shelves or preparing meals and then opening their doors to literally hundreds of clients in a single session. And guess what?

*"Life can be hard at times. It can really depress you to where you think no one cares. Then I found the Gateway Homeless Shelter - a place that people really cared and wanted to help me. Because of God's Pantry, people like me can actually have a good meal. Thank you so much for helping."*

*- Helen; Rowan County, Ky.*

Most of these hard-working people are volunteering their time and talents.

Feeding people is hard work, but with the help of these amazing agencies in places from Betsy Layne to Viper, Hagerhill to Booneville, God's Pantry Food Bank is impacting 1 in 7 people living in our service area. That's right - more than 211,000 people will visit one of these programs in the course of a year.

Your helps is critical to our success and the mission of all of these incredible organizations. For that, we thank you!

## Great Grants!

Grant support is important to God's Pantry Food Bank. Many of the programs we offer receive strong local, regional, and national support. In November, 2010, the Walmart Foundation made a gift of \$200,000 to God's Pantry to support the Food for Underserved Counties program and our general operations. The Walmart



Foundation currently has a focus on hunger relief and has partnered with food banks nationally to help us meet the significant demand for services.

### Other grants of note:

Grant gifts in support of our programs targeting child hunger (BackPack and Kids Cafe) have been gratefully received from: Children's Charity Fund of the Bluegrass, The Grainger Foundation, Food Lion Charitable Foundation, U.S. Bancorp Foundation, the Orphan Society of Lexington, PNC Foundation, The TJX Foundation, the Jackson Family Fund, the Dr. Scholl Foundation, and Schneider Electric/Square D Foundation.

The Fayette County Emergency Food Box program serves an average of 1,600 families monthly. The Blue Grass Community Foundation, John Parker Pope Foundation, Frances Hollis Brain foundation, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and



Keeneland gave gifts to support this program.

Other gifts aiding our overall operations have come recently from the Hoskins Family Foundation, E.O. Robinson Mountain Fund, the Spray Foundation, and MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger.

### We love matching gifts!

The companies below have matched gifts made by their employees since July 1, 2010:

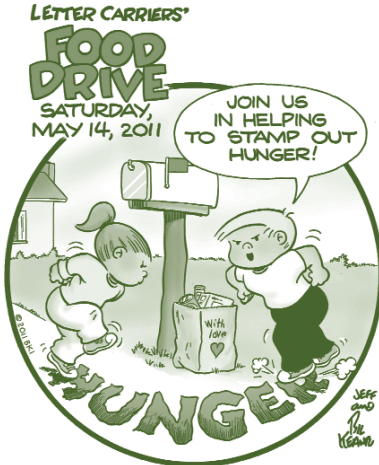
- Ashland Inc, Cisco, E.D. Bullard Company, Follett, GE Foundation, Glaxo Smith Kline, Grainger, HP Company, ITW, Macy's, Pfizer, and Schneider Electric/Square D.



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 859.255.6592  
 www.godspantry.org



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Don't forget to leave your canned food donation next to your mailbox on May 14.

## Give and Give Again!



This July, God's Pantry Food Bank and the Kentucky Blood Center are teaming up.

Summer is traditionally a tough time for both nonprofits as the food bank sees donations dip and demand increase and the blood center struggles to keep their supplies up during the active months of the summer.

Well, now you can help both charities in a single visit! Every person who makes a blood donation at one of the KBC's three centers (Lexington, Pikeville or Somerset) or through any mobile blood drive, will have the option of passing up the appreciation t-shirt and instead the Blood Center will make a donation equivalent to 11 meals to the food bank!

You can make your appointment to give blood at a center during July or look for a blood mobile coming to your area by logging onto [kentuckybloodcenter.org](http://kentuckybloodcenter.org).

## Golf Fore the Hungry is August 28-29

The 8th annual Golf Fore the Hungry is slated for Aug.28-29. 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](mailto:susie@godspantry.org), or visit the Golf Fore the Hungry website.

[www.golfforethehungry.org](http://www.golfforethehungry.org)



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