Hunger in Fayette County

Special Report 2004

God's Pantry Food Bank
Emergency Food Box Program

God’s Pantry Food Bank’s Mission
God's Pantry Food Bank is dedicated to reducing hunger in Kentucky through community cooperation making the best possible use of all available resources. God's Pantry works with 350 programs in 49 counties of central and eastern Kentucky as a member of America’s Second Harvest national food banking network. Since 1955, God's Pantry has been serving Fayette County families in need through the Emergency Food Box Program.

About the Survey
From January 22 to February 5, 2004, a team of board members, volunteers, and staff interviewed more than 400 clients visiting our five pantry locations. This third annual survey gathered important data on Fayette County emergency food box recipients. Thank you to the survey team, pantry volunteers, and most importantly, the clients who made this study possible. This study is our attempt to gather more accurate information on those we serve. Please recognize that information was compiled by volunteers and staff and could reflect inaccuracies due to human error.

Pantry Locations
- Broadway Christian Church
  187 N. Broadway, 40508
- Central Christian Church
  219 E. Short St., 40507
- Nathaniel Mission
  616 DeRoode St., 40508
- Pilgrim Baptist Church
  541 Jefferson St., 40508
- St. Luke United Methodist Church
  2351 Alumni Dr., 40517

Pantries are open Monday - Friday. Four sites operate during the afternoon and one during the evening to accommodate working clients.

Referring Agencies
Over 100 social service agencies refer clients to God's Pantry for service. Individuals may receive a food box up to 3 times within a 6-month period. By requiring a referral, this process eliminates duplication of service and links clients with other forms of assistance. The following are a few of these referring agencies:

- Community Action
- Salvation Army
- Cabinet for Health & Family Services
- Lexington Housing Authority
- St. Vincent de Paul Society
- Hope Center
- Fayette County Schools Family Resource & Youth Service Centers
- Health Department
- CompCare
- Cardinal Valley Center
- Fayette County Schools Migrant Program
- Manchester Center

What's in a food box?

- 2 packages meat (ground beef, hot dogs, etc.)
- 1 dozen eggs
- 21 cans of vegetables, fruit, & soup
- 11 units of pasta, cereal, rice, flour, & dry beans
- 2 each of available USDA commodities:
  - (juice; vegetables; canned fruit; canned pork, chicken, salmon or beef stew; rice; instant potatoes; dry beans)
- 5 packages dry milk
- 1 pound margarine
- 6 extras (condiments, coffee/tea, cookies, etc.)
- bread (as needed)
- baby food (jars, cereal, formula) (as needed)

Food Box for a Family of Four
(total estimated value = $105)

Clients say their food box lasts an average of 12 days.

Transportation
Only 32% of clients own their own car. 13% of clients walk to a pantry, and 55% rely on family and friends or use public transportation to get them there. That’s why it’s so important that pantries be located near client residences.

Client’s Choice Empowers...

The Client’s Choice system allows clients to choose foods that are appropriate and appealing to their families while providing greater dignity and independence.
Who is Hungry in Fayette County?

46% of all those served are children.

Education

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Graduate</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School or Equivalent</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade/Technical School</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Health Status

When clients were asked about their health status, over one-third of the adults needing assistance identified themselves as disabled or in poor health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Status</th>
<th>Adults</th>
<th>Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good health</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor health</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Typical Client

The typical client is a 40-54 year old white female in good health (50% are married) with two or more children. Her household contains two or more adults who have lived in Fayette County for more than 10 years. She is a high school graduate and is unemployed but looking for work. Her household rent is $250-$400 a month and she is skipping meals so that her children can eat.

Zip Codes

Income

Sixty-nine percent of households needing assistance have annual incomes below $10,000.

Employment

Thirteen percent of adults are employed full-time or part-time, and 32% are not working but looking for work. Retired individuals make up 4% of adults surveyed.

Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White, not Hispanic</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black, not Hispanic</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
52% of parents needing assistance skip meals so that their children can eat.

Financial, health, and employment issues are the top three reasons families need assistance.

53% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage in the last year.

51% of those surveyed said they came to God's Pantry for the first time last year.

50% had to choose between paying for food and paying for heat or utilities.

37% of clients had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care.

Just $10.50 can provide a food box for a family of four that lasts 12 days.

For more info, contact:
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