I often share with people you do not end hunger in a Food Bank, you end it in the community. This past fiscal year has only strengthened that thought. I have seen firsthand communities coming together to help out their neighbors when it is needed. Fiscal Year 2018 was a record year for us in food distribution but that only paints part of the picture. Behind those pounds distributed are thousands of volunteers, donors, and partner agencies who work directly in their communities to distribute food. Plus many advocates who continue to spread the mission of God’s Pantry Food Bank throughout our service area. I’m grateful for your support and look forward to what Fiscal Year 2019 brings.

Exciting News!

After months of hard work, we’ve launched our redesigned website! See our new look at www.GodsPantryFoodBank.org. Find out about our many programs, ways you can get involved with the mission, the rich history of the Food Bank, and hunger statistics for our service area. We hope you find it easier to navigate, and visit often to find out what is going on in the world of God’s Pantry Food Bank!
FINDING BLESSINGS THROUGH COLLABORATION

The success of any human service organization hinges on its ability to collaborate with others in the surrounding community. The 60+ year history of God’s Pantry Food Bank is proof positive of that. And while we know in our service area partnerships and collaborations are vital, we are still wonderfully surprised when new ones arise and present benefits beyond the expected.

In July 2017, our new partnership with Southland gave us an additional location to distribute food for seniors, as part of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Once a month 172 individuals arrive at the church to receive their box of food. The staff at Southland have welcomed this program and its participants with open arms, providing manual labor and emotional support. Because they have taken time to listen and be a positive presence for some of our most vulnerable citizens, they have been able to identify needs beyond food, and often find creative ways to meet those needs.

Bonnie is just one recent example. After talking with Bonnie when she came to pick up her CSFP box, the Southland staff determined that she could really use a new wheelchair. In November, when Bonnie arrived for her monthly box, she was presented with an “almost new” wheelchair. She was overjoyed – not just at having something she so desperately needed, but also at the way she received it. A gift that came out of the kindness and dedication of people willing to open their doors and see the need around them.

We are often overwhelmed by the beautiful surprises that come out of collaboration and we look forward to sharing with you more about Southland, and other beautiful stories from so many wonderful partners throughout our 50-county service area.

GIVING THANKS

We are grateful for the partnerships we have with organizations throughout our service area and beyond – from small businesses to large foundations. Every pound and every dollar donated to the Food Bank is an investment in our mission and crucial to our success in bringing more food to more Kentuckians. The businesses listed below each made food or cash gifts equivalent to 80,000 meals or more ($10K and/or 96K lbs) in fiscal year 2018.

Aldi
Blue Grass Community Foundation
CareSource Foundation
Central Bank & Trust
Children’s Charity Fund of the Bluegrass
Coca-Cola North America
Community Trust Bank
ConAgra Grocery Products
Costco Wholesale
Family Dollar Morehead
Feeding America
Flowers Baking Co
Food City
Hunt Advantage Group, LLC
John Parker Pope Foundation
Kellogg Company
Kentucky Association of Food Banks
Kraft Foods Inc.
Kroger
LG&E and KU Services Company
McLane Cumberland, Inc.
Mondelēz International
Nestle Waters North America
Niagara Bottling, LLC
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Paul Miller Ford
Performance Food Group
Quaker-Tropicana-Gatorade
Quantrell Auto Group, Inc.
Randleigh Foundation Trust
Red Nose Day Fund
RPE, Inc.
Sam’s Club
Target
The Dairy Alliance
Walmart
White River Coal Sales Inc.
Whole Foods Market
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust
Winchester Farms Dairy
Fiscal Year 2018
by the numbers (July 2017-June 2018)

34,484,322 pounds distributed throughout 50 counties in Central and Eastern Kentucky

28,736,935 meals

13,567,306 pounds of produce

24,230 households served in the Fayette County Pantries

10.1 million pounds of rescued food from retailers and restaurants

34,161 Kids Cafe Meals & Snacks

35,121 Backpacks Distributed to kids for weekend nourishment

More than 11,000 Volunteers donated 30,330 hours sorting food, repacking items, answering client calls, and distributing food boxes to seniors!
SIGNATURE EVENTS

Trying new restaurants, sipping on the best spirits, competing in a chili war, and packing Thanksgiving boxes. These are just a few of the ways you can join the Food Bank and feed those in need. Our signature events aim to be fun ways to come together and raise funds to support the mission of the Food Bank. Through the events in Fiscal Year 2018 we were able to gather and distribute enough food to create more than 3 million meals! We have an even larger goal in Fiscal Year 2019! Make sure to join us for these fun upcoming events that are well underway in planning now through next spring.

Oct. 25
Taste of Southeast Kentucky
London Community Center
www.tasteofsoutheastky.com

Nov. 10
Basket Brigade
God’s Pantry Food Bank Headquarters
www.gpfbbasketbrigade.org

Feb. 2, 2019
Chili Wars
Morehead Community Center
www.chiliwars.org

May 17, 2019
Taste of the Bluegrass
Keeneland’s Keene Barn and Entertainment Center
www.tasteofthebluegrass.com

WE GOT MILK!

Milk is a staple of the American diet, but is not an item commonly donated to Food Banks. Thanks to multiple partners God’s Pantry Food Bank will begin MOOving lots of milk through our network this fall!

The Dairy Alliance laid the groundwork in March with a $30,000 gift that allowed for installation of a large walk-in cooler at the Food Banks’s Winchester facility and new commercial coolers in all four Fayette County pantries. Winchester Farms Dairy joined the partnership, and now the Fayette County Pantry Program has milk available each week.

The United States Department of Agriculture then announced significant commodity purchases of milk, beef, and chicken that will be distributed, in part, through Food Banks starting in October. For God’s Pantry Food Bank, that means more than 180,000 half-gallons of whole, 2%, 1%, and skim milk will be available through our network of pantries throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky.

“I’m so excited,” said Michelle Carlisle, executive director of AMEN House in Scott County. AMEN House offers milk, eggs, meat, and peanut butter to every household that visits and in most cases they’ve purchased the milk from their own funds. “This will be a huge impact on our budget,” she said, allowing AMEN House to continue giving every client “the key components to a healthy diet.”

The ability to provide fresh milk through the pantries is fantastic for our neighbors in need. We’re grateful to the Dairy Alliance, Winchester Farms Dairy, and the USDA for providing the support to bring dairy to Food Bank clients!
SHARING THANKSGIVING

We are preparing for the 25th installment of our Sharing Thanksgiving program. It’s an above-and-beyond distribution that has made Thanksgiving meals possible for many Fayette County residents. The annual program provides a turkey plus all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal, and is enough for a family of eight. The food can be prepared at home and shared with loved ones on a holiday centered around food and family.

This program is possible because of the collaborative efforts of many in the community. The food is purchased using donated funds from thousands of financial donors. The non-perishable items are then packed by more than 300 participants at the annual Basket Brigade presented by PNC Bank. Distribution begins on the Saturday before Thanksgiving with volunteers from Immanuel Baptist, Imani Baptist, and Highlands Baptist churches delivering boxes and turkeys to homebound clients. The additional boxes and turkeys will be distributed at Southland’s Lexington campus with the help of more than 400 volunteers including members of several churches, PNC staff and GPFB volunteers.

This year, we are excited to expand this program. **We are piloting small distributions in Laurel County, Rowan County and Floyd County** – all counties where we have a Regional Distribution Center; working with nearby partner food pantries to provide referrals and help with the distribution. Overall, we expect to distribute 5200 boxes.

This expansion is made possible by support from our generous donors. We are thrilled to welcome **Kentucky Bank** as a Sharing Thanksgiving sponsor, helping provide meals to families in Fayette and Rowan Counties. If you or your business would like to sponsor Sharing Thanksgiving in one of these new expanded locations, please contact Rebecca Wallace at 859.288.5325 or rwallace@godspantry.org.

WATER INTO WINE, MAGOFFIN COUNTY

First opening in January of 2013, Water Into Wine has quickly grown to be the largest pantry operation in Magoffin County. Currently housed in a former school building, the pantry serves as many as 500 households per month in one of the most economically challenged areas of Eastern Kentucky.

The pantry conducts one large distribution over two days each month utilizing 25 to 45 volunteers. The first day is set aside for senior citizens, and occurs the day before their regular pantry day. “Senior day” usually sees roughly 150 recipients, some of whom are brought to the pantry by a local transportation company that offers a special $1 per ride rate to the food pantry on that day. The area senior citizen center also transports those who need the pantry free of charge, using their buses.

Earlier this year, Water Into Wine began partnering with God’s Pantry Food Bank to offer area seniors the Commodity Supplemental Food Program at this location, in addition to their regular pantry services. As a result of their growth, Christian Appalachian Project provided grant funding in early 2018 for construction of a parking pad for trucks, and a new entrance that is accessible by fork lift and pallets jacks, to make the work of loading food into the pantry much easier.
Thank you