Summer Food Distribution Ramps Up Amid COVID-19 Challenges; Toyota Issues Matching Gift Challenge

Everyone knows Toyota makes a great vehicle. Here’s proof they make a great neighbor, too!

Toyota USA Foundation will double every dollar of your support directed to the God’s Pantry Food Bank Suppers All Summer initiative by August 31, up to a total of $55,000.

It’s the perfect way to ensure that we can continue to fight hunger for a growing number of kids and families now facing food insecurity across Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Between mid-March and late June, our more than 400 pantry and meal programs reported a 20-80% increase in the need for food. Widespread school shutdowns, along with increasing health and safety requirements, posed great challenges to our ability to get food to where it was needed most. But generous donors and volunteers stepped in to help us undertake larger-scale community food distributions.

Our Suppers All Summer efforts have continued, with highlights including:

• total anticipated pounds of food to be delivered: 11,100,000 — enough to create 9,250,000 meals
• delicious apples, onions, potatoes, and other fresh fruits and vegetables delivered throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky at special produce distributions (see “Did You Know?” on page 2 for more on our produce distribution efforts)
• 10 summer meal program sites in four counties provided 2,765 “to-go” style lunch meals to children and teens in May and June
• four school pantry programs in Fayette and Robertson counties remaining open for families that have nowhere else to turn
• mass truckload distributions with drive-thru service providing meal basics and fresh produce to approximately 600 households during May and June

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You’re Filling Shelves with Food and Hearts with Hope ...

I can’t tell you how inspiring it has been to watch our community come together. In the wake of COVID-19, we have eased hunger in so many wonderful ways.

We are humbled by the powerful difference you’re making in the lives of thousands of children and adults in need.

Of course, the need is not going away anytime soon. So neither will our Suppers All Summer program. Your gift during Toyota’s matching challenge will help us serve many of the 250,000 food-insecure Kentuckians across our service area with an anticipated 9,250,000 meals during June, July, and August.

And as the article to the right confirms, providing access to nutritious foods is an increasingly important element of our work. You’ll see that a significant percentage of summertime deliveries are fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables — about half of which are grown and sold right here in Kentucky.

Yes, isolation and losses continue for thousands of families. Far too many don’t know where next week’s meals will come from. So I thank you once more for all you’ve done, and I hope you can continue to help us fill even more shelves with food, and more hearts with hope!

Michael J. Halligan
Chief Executive Officer

Did you know?

Fresh fruits and vegetables constitute about 1/3 of the food distributed by God’s Pantry Food Bank. That means over the past year, nearly 14 million pounds of produce have reached Kentucky neighbors facing food insecurity.

Distributed between July and October, these fresh, healthy foods are acquired in three ways:

- direct purchases from U.S. wholesalers and produce companies
- pickup from local retail stores across our 50-county service area, reducing their waste
- from local farmers donating their excess or imperfect crops (this Farms to Food Banks program was developed by God’s Pantry Food Bank a decade ago and is a model running statewide through Feeding Kentucky!)

Thank you for making possible the Food Bank’s growing commitment to offering fresh and healthy locally-sourced foods.

Some Heroes Show Up Every Month

You can, too! Join the Food Bank’s monthly giving program and become a Hero for the Hungry. You’ll help provide year-round nourishment for over 250,000 Central and Eastern Kentucky neighbors in need.

Just $25 per month becomes 2,400 meals for food-insecure children, seniors and families over the course of a year.

Sign up on the enclosed reply form, or visit godspantry.org/heroforthehungry and start making a difference, month after month. Thank you!
Thank you for being the Power behind our emergency outreach!

Originally celebrating the 65th anniversary of God’s Pantry Food Bank, the Power of One 65-day challenge continues to see an outpouring of tremendous community support. 2,100+ donors have contributed more than $200,000 — more than triple the original goal!

That generosity made possible a dramatic increase in our response to food requests from thousands of neighbors in sudden financial distress due to COVID-19.

The Power of One has become the power of an entire community coming together to help each other in clearly one of the most inspiring moments in our 65-year history to end hunger across Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Your Gifts at Work ... ON MIRACLE STREET IN BEREAL

Berea’s Silver Creek apartments serve low-income disabled people by providing affordable housing. Many of these neighbors find buying fresh fruit and vegetables an economic challenge — and residents here, due to mobility and transportation issues, find it hard to shop often for perishable produce.

Berea Food Bank’s Tony Crachiolo, the agency’s new coordinator as of March 2020, felt something needed to be done. “I came to this role from being a volunteer ... I saw how many at-risk people there are in our community who simply can’t access the nutrition they need.”

Backed by God’s Pantry Food Bank donors, food donors like Walmart, and several community agencies, Tony began new deliveries of groceries — particularly fresh fruits and vegetables — directly to residents.

“Our ReachOut program was created specially to serve them,” Tony says. “At the Silver Creek apartment complex on Miracle Street, the apartment managers agreed to having on-site food distributions. Two of their residents help coordinate the effort as Community Ambassadors to ensure each delivery of produce goes as far as it can for those in need.”

In May alone, over a half ton of fresh produce reached Silver Creek residents. June’s deliveries easily doubled that amount. Also, many residents were unaware they might qualify for complete food orders in addition to the produce, so the Community Ambassadors distributed flyers with bags of apples, potatoes, and oranges to raise awareness. Residents can now have complete food orders delivered monthly by the Berea Food Bank’s new delivery service.

Residents say the ReachOut program and new delivery service have truly been a godsend. Even, some might say, a miracle.

With continuing help from community volunteers and generous donors to God’s Pantry Food Bank, Tony is planning new and better ways to inform and serve all Southern Madison County residents in need.

Berea Food Bank is located at 108 Parkway Avenue in Berea and is administered by the Berea Faith Community Outreach. It is one of the more than 400 hometown-based pantry and meal programs that partner with God’s Pantry Food Bank. Through this network, God’s Pantry Food Bank provides more than 40 million pounds of food annually in 50 counties in Central and Eastern Kentucky. Along with Bereans United for Utility and Rent Relief and the Frank Gailey Transient/Emergency Assistance Fund, the Berea Food Bank continues to meet the nutritional, housing, and other material needs of at-risk people in their community.
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• Lexington pantry sites serving families and seniors via drive-thru pickups of food boxes, milk, bread, and produce.

• Little Caesar’s and Panera Bread providing direct donations of freshly-prepared pizzas and sandwich boxes to serve families visiting our Central Christian Church Pantry in Lexington.

Thousands still need our help, and yours. So please don’t wait.

Give today. Get your gift matched. We’ll turn the Power of One into the Power of Two, thanks to the power of an entire community working together!

Thank you! 😊

(AND THANKS AGAIN, TOYOTA ... OH, WHAT A FEELING! WHO COULD ASK FOR ANYTHING MORE?)

VOLUNTEER NEWS ...

Welcome Back!

We’ve reopened our Lexington warehouse for in-person volunteers! With enhanced safety protocols in place and new opportunities on the way, now’s the time to help us keep hunger at bay for our neighbors in need.

Special shout-out to Lockheed Martin employees for their gifts of time and money during the company’s annual Project MENU (Mission. Engage. Nourish. Unite.) initiative. We couldn’t do it without you!

To find out more about individual, group and corporate volunteering, or to sign up for our volunteer e-newsletter, email us at volunteerservices@godspantry.org, or call 859.288.5376.

YES, I believe in the Power of One. Here’s one gift from one passionate donor to help end hunger for one more Kentucky neighbor!

☐ $40  ☐ $65  ☐ $100  ☐ $250  ☐ $500  ☐ $

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY  STATE  ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

☐ Please contact me at the phone number above about making planned gifts to God’s Pantry Food Bank.

I would like more information about:

☐ Volunteering  ☐ Hosting a Food + Fund Drive

☐ Giving through my will  ☐ Involving my company

☐ I want to become a Hero for the Hungry with a recurring, monthly gift of $_____. I understand I can change or cancel at any time and have provided payment information below.

☐ Charge my gift to:

☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ Amex  ☐ Discover

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

☐ For recurring monthly gifts, please charge my card on the

☐ 1st  ☐ 20th day each month.

Please make your check payable to:

God’s Pantry Food Bank, 1685 Jaggie Fox Way, Lexington, KY 40511-1084

Please call 859.288.5335 to charge your gift by phone, or visit godspantry.org/donate/ to make a gift online.