While family gatherings may look very different this holiday season, our reason for getting together hasn’t changed. The fourth Thursday of November is meant for families to share a delicious meal and give thanks for the many blessings they have enjoyed throughout the year.

Sadly, this year, more of our neighbors across the Commonwealth are struggling with hunger. Kentucky ranks first in the nation for food insecurity among older adults ages 50-59, plus one in every five children is at risk of going without adequate nutrition. Twelve of the nation’s top 50 counties with the highest food insecurity rates are located in the Central and Eastern Kentucky area served by God’s Pantry Food Bank.

So, how do we help our neighbors this holiday season? We gather together in person and spirit to make the annual Sharing Thanksgiving program a resounding success!

This longstanding Thanksgiving tradition brings local community members, donors, friends and Food Bank staff together in mid-November through two Basket Brigade events to assemble special holiday food boxes for families experiencing hunger. As with most things this year, the Basket Brigades will look a bit different, but the extraordinary impact on lives, families, and the community will not change.

We need your help to fill 5,800 food boxes — an increase of 300 boxes this year! Each box will include a generous quantity of all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving meal — turkey, cornbread stuffing, sweet
Produce in Pippa Passes!

YOUR GENEROSITY NOURISHES HUNGRY NEIGHBORS

In Knott County, it was another hot Friday in July.

A God’s Pantry Food Bank truck rolled into the parking lot at Caney Baptist Church in Pippa Passes. The rig was filled with farm fresh Kentucky produce. Homegrown zucchini, squash, cucumbers, cantaloupe and watermelons filled the pallets, along with fresh gallons of milk.

Slowly the line of cars formed along KY-899 ...

Many were families; the little ones were invited to help point to the fruits and vegetables that looked “just right.” Food Bank volunteers shared easy, impromptu recipes with some who’d never cooked squash before.

Two sisters shared that their elderly mother was sick and bed-bound. They were grateful to receive some fresh, juicy fruits to help pique their mom’s appetite.

One gentleman requested just one gallon of milk and a little produce; he said he didn’t want to take too much away from others.

Beyond the physical nourishment the 75+ shoppers received, a greater sense of community was built. Katie Landon, God’s Pantry Food Bank Youth Services and Nutrition Manager said, “Meeting the local volunteers and feeding every hungry neighbor in town really made us feel like part of this special community.”

Thanks to generous farmers, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and donors like you, rural communities have more access to healthy, fresh produce!

What a difference a year makes ...

Who could have imagined how much our lives would change? The words coronavirus, COVID-19, social distancing, and quarantine were not part of our daily news, or our daily experience. And no one could have predicted how drastically life, work, school, or social gatherings would be disrupted in 2020.

But heart-wrenching stories about the impact of COVID-19 on hunger have also brought out the best in people.

More than 250,000 Central and Eastern Kentucky neighbors are incredibly thankful for your extraordinary compassion and kindness.

Your thoughtfulness is helping people right here at home. One recipient of an emergency food box said, “Thanks to the staff and volunteers at God’s Pantry, who made it possible for me to receive the donation of food during this COVID-19 crisis. You are very much appreciated for the work and service you provide. Many blessings to you all!”

The impact of your support is profound. Simply put, we can’t do this crucial work without you!

Now we look forward to Sharing Thanksgiving throughout the beautiful hometowns of Central and Eastern Kentucky. Thank you for helping so many families gather together to share the bounty of wholesome food as they give thanks this holiday season!

Michael J. Halligan
Chief Executive Officer
How Your Gift Helps In McCreary County

McCreary County is among the most impoverished counties in the Commonwealth and in the United States. But a positive community spirit makes all the difference to its residents!

Residents in this beautiful rural area in Southeastern Kentucky have experienced economic hard times and declines in population, but their community spirit is strong. One bright spot is The Lord’s Café in Stearns, opened in 2011 by Pastor Grant Hasty, his wife Gina, and members of Crossroads Community Baptist Church.

Designed to help neighbors in need get a nourishing midday meal, Pastor Hasty calls the café “the busiest restaurant in town after McDonald’s.” Your generosity helps the hardworking volunteers at The Lord’s Café provide hot meals and nutritious groceries, along with heartwarming friendship and fellowship, to nearly 300 families weekly, an increase of more than 65% since the pandemic began.

“The fresh produce and meat we’ve gotten from God’s Pantry Food Bank in recent months have been amazing!” Pastor Hasty notes. “I recall a single mom visiting with a 5-year-old. The [SNAP benefits] she qualified for weren’t coming through correctly; they depended on us. She was so grateful for the meals.”

The Lord’s Café also serves a special annual Thanksgiving dinner to their local community. In recent years, an estimated 1,300–1,400 neighbors have gathered to enjoy delicious holiday fare. “Most of the people we serve are on an extremely fixed income. We convert a back room to an assembly line ... this year will look different, but we will be here.”

Your kind support for God’s Pantry Food Bank helps The Lord’s Café share the spirit of Thanksgiving year-round in one of the most food-insecure counties in Southeastern Kentucky. Thank you!

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2020 BASKET BRIGADE
Participation Opportunities Abound!

Gather your family, friends and co-workers to help 5,800 hungry families enjoy an extra special Thanksgiving dinner!

Join our Basket Brigade in person or virtually and help build holiday food boxes for Sharing Thanksgiving.

A limited number of on-site participation spots are available in Lexington on November 13 and 14 at Southland Christian Church on Richmond Road, and on November 14 at our Southeast Regional Distribution Center in London.

On-site participation is $25 per person and includes an official event t-shirt. Age limit is 18 years or older.*

If you wish to participate from home, you can virtually set the Thanksgiving table by purchasing a food box for a family in need. Cost is $50 per person and includes an official event t-shirt. No age limit or mask required for this option!

Register by phone today at 859.288.5332, or visit godspantry.org/events.

The Sharing Thanksgiving Basket Brigade and food distribution are generously sponsored by Quantrell Auto Group, PNC Bank, Duff Family Coal, CHI Saint Joseph Health London, Cumberland Valley National Bank, Hometown Bank, Kebco, Inc., and MCM CPAs & Advisors.

*On-site participants must adhere to public health guidelines. Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer will be provided and required.
Gathering Together to Help Our Neighbors

Continued from page 1

potatoes, cranberry sauce, seasonal vegetables and fruit. No meal would be complete without dessert as well! The food boxes will be distributed to families in and around Fayette, Floyd, Laurel, and Rowan counties during the week of November 23rd.

Please join us by making a generous gift today via mail, phone or online, or signing up for a Basket Brigade event as an on-site or virtual participant. For more details, see page 3 of this newsletter, visit godspantry.org/events, or contact Tammy Taylor, Development Officer, at tataylor@godspantry.org or 859.288.5335.

Thank you so much for helping our neighbors enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday!

Leaving a Legacy to Feed the Future

A growing number of contributors are supporting God’s Pantry Food Bank with a planned gift. Here are three popular choices:

1. **BEQUESTS**
   Name God’s Pantry Food Bank as recipient of a gift of cash, securities, or other assets in your will.

2. **LIFE INSURANCE**
   Donate a new or paid-up life insurance policy by naming God’s Pantry Food Bank as a beneficiary.

3. **RETIREMENT ASSETS**
   Contribute proceeds of a profit sharing plan, 401(k) or 403(b), or an IRA. These gifts can help lower taxes for your other beneficiaries.

For more information, contact Karen Griffin, Development Director, at kagriffin@godspantry.org or 859.288.5325.

The mission of God’s Pantry Food Bank is to reduce hunger in Kentucky through community cooperation, making the best possible use of all available resources.

God’s Pantry Food Bank, Inc.  1685 Jaggie Fox Way  Lexington, KY 40511-1084  859.288.5335  info@godspantry.org

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.