God’s Pantry Food Bank founder and Lexington resident Mim Hunt observed poverty in her community and took action to assist those affected. Mim, whose experience as a child welfare worker fueled her desire to serve those in need, made it her mission to help her neighbors. In 1955, she started a mobile food pantry. From her station wagon filled with food and other basic necessities, Mim directly impacted the lives of children and adults in Fayette County. Sixty-seven years later, her legacy lives on through a vital regional food bank that serves those experiencing hunger across 50 counties.

Today, more than 250,000 Central and Eastern Kentuckians struggle to put food on the table. A Jackson County hunger relief program began similarly — someone saw a need and inspired others to come together to help. Joyce Marks, director of Jackson County Food Bank, has been involved since the first call to action.

It began in the mid-1980s when a social worker in McKee reached out to St. Paul Catholic Church, where Joyce was a parishioner, asking for the church’s help to open a food pantry. Through the hard work and advocacy of many church ministers and nuns, parishioners, and neighbors, a food pantry opened. Joyce has served as an enthusiastic advocate ever since.

The food pantry was named the Jackson County Emergency Food Bank. It serves McKee and surrounding communities, where 23% of the county’s 12,955 residents face hunger.

“We serve 300-400 people per month,” Joyce notes. “It’s a true partnership—we couldn’t do our work without volunteers, local businesses, churches, donors, community leaders and God’s Pantry Food Bank.”

God’s Pantry Food Bank board member Nancy Barnett visited McKee and participated in a fresh produce distribution. “This trip was so enriching. While helping recipients carry produce to their cars, I was able to interact with this community and make connections I intend to foster. I also visited the Jackson County Food Bank and had the honor of meeting Joyce Marks. I will forever hold her in the highest regard. She is a beacon of light, inspiration, endless energy, and total selflessness.”

This Women’s History Month, we salute the courage and action of women who have shaped vital hunger relief programs in Kentucky, along with the dedicated volunteers and donors who sustain these efforts. Thank you for your compassion and generous support. 🌺
Some amazing outcomes of your giving are being felt this season as God’s Pantry Food Bank continues to increase its food assistance to neighbors experiencing hunger. **Thank you for the HOPE your support is delivering every day to children and adults living across Central and Eastern Kentucky.**

Since July 2021, you have empowered us to distribute more than 20.5 million pounds of food. Of that, more than 7.4 million pounds were fresh fruits and vegetables! We’ve rescued and redirected nearly 6 million pounds of nourishing food and dairy products from retailers through our MealConnect program. In February, we expanded our Mobile Pantry Program to Bath County, bringing the total to nine counties being served by this critical effort.

But our work isn’t over. Federal pandemic relief programs are beginning to expire. That means you and donors like you will play an even more important role in making sure all Kentuckians get the nourishment they need to thrive in 2022.

We’re working hard to grow our capacity to serve. Our first volunteer center at 817 Winchester Road, along with preparations to outfit a food pantry at the Northside Branch Library, will give us a physical presence near those Fayette County neighbors facing the greatest need. Stay tuned for more news about the opening of these facilities.

Across our region, we continue to partner with hundreds of other nonprofits to distribute food and strengthen vital hunger relief programs. Every $1 you donate = 8 meals. That’s an incredible, and much appreciated, investment in your community!

Once again, thank you for your generous financial support, your time, your leadership, your food donations. YOU fuel our daily drive to feed Kentucky!

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**The Growing Impact of Your Generosity**

**Michael J. Halligan**
Chief Executive Officer
Baby Boomers Volunteer for Vital Child Hunger Relief Program

Each month, a dedicated group of volunteers meets to pack bags of food and snacks for children who attend William Wells Brown Elementary School in Fayette County. The BackPack Program provides nourishing groceries for kids and teens to help fill weekend meal gaps during the school year.

Recently on a cold winter morning, ten members of the Baby Boomers Group from Central Baptist Church in Lexington gathered together to fill 200 bags with shelf-stable yogurt, instant oatmeal, granola bars, and fat-free milk, plus small easy-to-open containers of peas and carrots, lasagna, and macaroni and cheese. Their work created enough BackPacks for a one-month supply at the elementary school.

The Baby Boomers have been volunteering at the Food Bank for more than a decade. Group member Jane Tatum said, “God’s Pantry Food Bank is an important mission in our community. Volunteering helps me understand the needs of food insecurity and ways to help.”

Cheryl Thompson shared her thoughts, “Kids should not be hungry. This is a good way to help.” Judy Thompson, a former classroom teacher for Fayette County schools, understands the need to help children experiencing hunger. “It is a privilege to help in this way,” she stated.

Funded by grants and donations from caring donors like you, the Food Bank sponsors nearly 33,000 BackPacks annually at 24 sites in Fayette and Floyd counties, where children receive these food resources each week. Working together, we are reducing child hunger across Central and Eastern Kentucky.

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The results are in! Take a look at the amazing impact of generous participation in last fall’s special events!

More Than Just a Meal
(September Hunger Action Month)

125 participants raised $16,620 for 132,960 meals

Sharing Thanksgiving Basket Brigades
(November)

Sponsorships raised $104,400
239 individuals contributed $7,300
6,500 households received holiday food baskets

Twelve Days of Stuff Your Stocking
(December 1–12)

150 bidders raised $10,971 for 87,760 meals
For more information on the above events and raffle, contact Julia at jcurry@godspantry.org, 859-288-5332. God’s Pantry Food Bank reserves the right to alter or cancel events and raffles prior to start date, if needed. Gaming license number ORG0002695.

YES, Mike! I’ll help fuel the drive to feed more Kentuckians facing hunger this season and throughout 2022.

$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/wintermeals to make a gift online.

God’s Pantry Food Bank, Inc.  1685 Jaggie Fox Way  Lexington, KY 40511-1084  859.288.5335  info@godspantry.org  2209WNL  83408