Thanks to caring donors like you, the Food Bank distributed nearly 42 million pounds of wholesome food to people experiencing hunger last fiscal year. Nearly one third of those groceries included fresh fruits and vegetables needed by kids, teens, and adults to live their healthiest lives.

Even with all of this support, thousands of Kentuckians remain at risk for hunger. Across Central and Eastern Kentucky alone, more than a quarter million neighbors struggle to feed their families. This daily reality affects kids and teens who would go hungry without school and weekend meal programs, seniors on limited budgets, and households in metro and rural areas whose incomes just don’t stretch far enough to cover their basic living costs.

Through our partnership with more than 450 food pantries and meal programs in 50 counties, God’s Pantry Food Bank continues to turn every dollar you give into 8 nutritious meals for a neighbor experiencing hunger.

“We cannot thank Toyota Kentucky enough for their generous gift to support our summer hunger relief programs,” said Karen Griffin, the Food Bank’s Development Director. “Their matching gift encourages donations from community members across our service area and makes a huge difference for the Food Bank and more importantly, for those we serve. We can’t do this work without compassionate friends and donors like Toyota!”

Your thoughtful gift will help... a single mother and her infant in desperate need of safe shelter, food, and hope at The Sunshine Center in Frankfort; hardworking parents of four visiting the Family Food Center in Nicholasville; a homeless neighbor stopping in for a hot breakfast at The Nathaniel Mission in Lexington; an elderly widow living on a modest fixed income who turns to Berea's Community Food Bank to help her get through the month.

Join the Food Bank and Toyota Kentucky to provide the hope and nourishment our neighbors need to thrive. Working together, we can stock the shelves and sustain critical emergency food assistance programs this summer. Thank you for giving generously to change lives today!
Hunger doesn’t take a summer break, and thanks to support from friends like you, neither do we.

During June, July and August, God’s Pantry Food Bank will serve thousands of nourishing meals and snacks to kids and teens at risk for not getting the nutrition they need. Because of you, children visiting nearly 20 neighborhood libraries, churches, youth centers, and other summer meal programs will enjoy generous helpings of health, hope, and the happiness that comes with having enough.

Summertime means our fresh produce distributions are at their peak! In partnership with Kentucky growers, God’s Pantry Food Bank is now in its 13th year of distributing farm-fresh fruits and vegetables to Central and Eastern Kentuckians. What started right here in our service area has become a model across the Commonwealth, with 332 farms supplementing over five million meals last year alone.

Your generosity helps us enhance valuable partnerships to meet the growing need for food assistance, especially in underserved communities experiencing high levels of poverty. One recent collaboration with the Lexington Public Library and the Winburn Neighborhood Association resulted in the June 7th grand opening of a much-needed food pantry in northern Fayette County. Located inside the Northside Branch, more than 200 neighbors shopped for groceries for their families within the first week!

Your partnership with the Food Bank yields a harvest of good things for those who need us most this season. Please visit GodsPantryFoodBank.org to learn more about our work or sign up for volunteer opportunities.

Thank you again for your compassion for those less fortunate and your commitment to helping ease hunger across Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Michael J. Halligan
Chief Executive Officer

More than a Million Meals, Thanks to You!

Our wonderful donor community rose to the occasion during the Faces of Hunger Million Meals Challenge this spring. Through this incredible support, the ambitious goal of $125,000 was met and exceeded! More than 1.2 million meals will reach grateful neighbors, who are so appreciative of your care and concern. With 1 in 7 Kentuckians experiencing hunger amidst the rapidly rising cost of living, your support has never meant more. Thank you for these generous gifts to reduce hunger for Kentucky kids, teens, and adults.

Another Record Year for Produce Distribution, thanks to YOU!

Between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, donor generosity helped God’s Pantry Food Bank distribute 15+ million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables—surpassing our previous record by over one million pounds. Our model Farms to Food Banks program enables neighbors in great need to receive locally grown summer crops while they’re at the peak of their nutrient value. Incredible things happen when a community comes together!
Thank You, Sponsors and Donors of 40th Taste of the Bluegrass

Thanks to amazing corporate and individual generosity, Lexington’s longest-running food tasting event raised more than $140,000 for important Kentucky hunger relief programs. Celebrating 40 years of Taste of the Bluegrass, this exciting event held on May 13 at Keeneland would not have been possible without the help of many longtime supporters, including our Presenting Sponsor—Quantrell Subaru.

“Throughout their 24 years of generously caring for people experiencing hunger in Central and Eastern Kentucky, both the Quantrell Auto Group and the Subaru Love Promise Program have brought hope and critical resources to where they’re needed most,” said Michael Halligan, CEO.

Some 825 donor-guests were treated to delicious food and beverages from 51 premier restaurants, caterers, breweries, and wineries. Emceed by spirits aficionado Fred Minnick, the evening featured music by the Mercy Men, a silent auction, a jewelry pull, and the ever popular Kentucky Bourbon Pull.

At the evening’s end, our Food Rescue Team accepted more than 350 pounds of gourmet food, such as beef short ribs, premium Bundt cakes, and tasty macaroni and cheese. These scrumptious entrees and desserts were donated to Moveable Feast Lexington, which used the food in nourishing meals prepared and delivered to patients and their families across Fayette County.

To see highlights of the evening’s festivities, scan the QR code to watch a special video created by Matt Malicote of the Malicote Creative Company.

Thank you to all of our guests and sponsors for making the 40th Taste of the Bluegrass an incredible success!

Quantrell Subaru
Keeneland
Central Bank
LG&E and KU Foundation
Traditional Bank
NiSource Charitable Foundation
and Columbia Gas of Kentucky
A Morehead Friend
Gabriel Group
The Allen Co. Inc.
The Boot Store
State Farm Stewart Perry

How Friends Like You Help Our Neighbors

1. We acquire food through local, regional and national sources like:
   + Food manufacturers
   + Growers and growing networks
   + Grocery retailers
   + United States Department of Agriculture
   + Food drives
   + Food purchases

2. We receive funds directly from the community through:
   + Individual donations
   + Grants
   + Contributions from organizations and companies

3. Those funds pay for:
   + Transporting food to our warehouse
   + Storing food in our warehouse
   + Our fleet of trucks and drivers
   + Packaging fresh produce
   + Purchasing food
   + Additional administrative costs

4. We distribute food to people struggling with food insecurity through our partner agencies:
   + Food pantries
   + Soup kitchens
   + Homeless shelters
   + Schools and youth programs
Steve Lainhart and his wife have a heart for helping folks in need.

Over the years, the Richmond, Kentucky couple have seen more than their share of hungry kids coming to school. His wife is a retired teacher, and Steve spent years driving a school bus in addition to his career as a dog trainer. Steve also spent time volunteering at an area food pantry.

“I have felt called to do what I can to help our neighbors in need,” Steve says. “It’s a long time from Friday to Monday, and you could always tell by how they gobbled down that Monday morning breakfast that some of these kids just don’t get enough at home.”

Steve decided to help make sure no child goes to bed hungry through a special business promotion called Will Train Dogs for Food. During 2022, Steve’s first 100 clients will enjoy a 50% discount off the In-House Obedience Training Package, from $800 to $412. When clients sign up at that level, Steve will accept a $212 (includes tax) payment for training, and the client can write a tax-deductible $200 check directly to their choice of one of several partnering food banks/pantries.

“People hold fundraisers, and it’s a lot of work for sometimes not a whole lot of return. I figured this is a way to be able to make a big difference while I’m already doing what I do. And if you’re already getting your dog trained, wouldn’t you go ahead and choose the trainer who is doing good for others at the same time?”

Steve will continue this program until he raises $20,000 for hunger relief through the promotion. He notes that a huge national corporation might be able to raise that amount effortlessly, such as a few cents at a time from thousands of fountain drinks sold. “But I don’t have a lot of money to start with. So to have a big impact, I needed to make it a big part of the regular fee.”

God’s Pantry Food Bank thanks the Lainharts for their generosity in sharing with our neighbors who are experiencing hunger! Would you like to explore innovative ways your small (or large) business might partner with the Food Bank to make a difference? Give our Development Team a call at 859-288-5335.

Steve Lainhart is a Registered Professional Dog Trainer, a graduate of the United States K-9 Academy, Ltd. in Milford, Connecticut. He can be reached at 859-314-1350.