Compassion in Action
Your Support Matters

Nestled in the Bluegrass region at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Garrard County is home to nearly 17,000 residents. Its local food pantry in Lancaster provides a caring place where neighbors can go when budgets are stretched thin, and groceries run low.

Nearly 2,000 children and adults in this east-central county face the harsh reality of not having enough food to eat. Fortunately, help and hope are available, thanks to dedicated community members who don’t want anyone to go hungry.

The hardworking volunteers at the Garrard County Food Pantry see the effects of hunger each day. This nonprofit organization has partnered with God’s Pantry Food Bank since 1987 to provide nourishing food and helpings of support as a hub for hunger relief.

Relying on this Pantry are 550 – 700 households that depend on the fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk and dairy products, plus other hearty groceries provided through the Pantry. Last December was a typical month when more than 55,000 pounds of food were distributed, including nearly 35,000 pounds of produce.

But the Pantry has known hardship recently, leaning into surrounding communities and God’s Pantry Food Bank for support when tragedy struck.

Gregory Cash has run the Garrard County Food Pantry for 15 years. He recalls the day in November 2021 when his phone began ringing with almost unbelievable messages. A devastating fire had broken out at the pantry.

“The building was fully engulfed by the time I arrived,” he recalled. “Nothing could be saved.”

The disaster threatened the community’s well-being.

“Well over 400 seniors visited monthly,” Cash said. “Hunger doesn’t know an age or anything else. It doesn’t stop just because of a tragic situation.”

Learning later that the fire had been intentionally set only added to the heartbreak.

Neighbors from near and far came together to help pick up the pieces—including extra help God’s Pantry Food Bank was able to extend thanks to many generous donors.

Following the fire, the Food Bank helped Greg file loss paperwork with state and federal agriculture departments, provided food from The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and groceries to restock shelves when a new home for the Pantry was found at 103 Baker Street.

Community compassion helped Greg and his volunteers regroup and relocate the Pantry quickly, maintaining vital support for their neighbors facing hunger. Thank you to everyone who went over and above to keep Garrard County’s children, seniors, and families from going without food.

Your generosity helps God’s Pantry Food Bank remain prepared to help local communities when tragedies occur. Visit GodsPantryFoodBank.org/wintermeals and make a gift to put your compassion into action.
Sharing Thanksgiving 2022... Grateful for Your Generosity

Holiday help from individuals, families, and businesses across the region added up to a joy-filled season of plenty for thousands of neighbors in need. THANK YOU to 138 benevolent Basket Brigade participants for packing 6,600 food boxes and to 20 sponsors from Lexington, London, and Morehead for making the annual Sharing Thanksgiving program a tremendous success. Raising nearly $89,000 to cover the cost of turkeys, fresh produce, and other holiday fixings, you’ve changed lives for the better!

Special thanks to our generous sponsors:
- Better Life Church
- Cumberland Valley National Bank
- Daniel Danford
- Susan Duff/Duff Family Coal
- Grace Health Center
- Greentree Forest Products, Inc.
- Hometown Bank
- Jackson WWS, Inc.
- Kebco, Inc.
- Mitchell Family Foundation
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- Southland Christian Church
- SRC of Lexington
- St. Claire Regional Medical Center
- Stites & Harbison, PLLC
- The Creek Church
- University of Kentucky Federal Credit Union
- Vulcan Construction Materials
- Randall and Victoria Weddle

Stuff Your Stocking Silent Auction Supports 77,000 Meals!

The holiday season was one to remember, thanks to everyone who made the 3rd annual Stuff Your Stocking silent auction a huge success. Started in 2020 when in-person events could not be held during the COVID-19 pandemic, this special online auction adds meaning to the season with all proceeds delivering more food and hope to individuals and families during the winter months.

The 2022 auction raised $10,440 from 55 fun and exciting items, plus $800 in cash donations. Thank you to our generous sponsors who provided a wonderful variety of gifts and to everyone who participated in the bidding!
Your Generosity Embraces Lexington Kids at Risk for Hunger

The steeple of Embrace Church along North Limestone Street in northeast Lexington points skyward—a beacon of hope for neighbors struggling to feed their children.

In 2012, the church’s current lead pastor and his wife, John and Laura Gallaher, began Common Good Community Development Center. This neighborhood ministry and nonprofit focuses on Christian community development to create a safe space for families in their community to know love.

With caring support like yours, God’s Pantry Food Bank helps provide for an important part of that ministry. Common Good’s Kids Cafe is part of a youth program run during six weeks of summer and throughout the school year inside the church basement.

Greison Mitchell is Common Good’s youth program coordinator. “During summer we can take up to 72 children from kindergarten through 12th grade,” Greison says. “We order what we need from God’s Pantry and serve a hot meal that includes a protein, whole grain, fruit, vegetable, and chocolate milk or juice. The kids are here from 1-5 pm during the Summer Program and from 3:30-6 pm during the After-school Program. We primarily serve students of color; many of them are immigrants and refugees.”

Greison says that 50 volunteers are needed to commit one day per week each semester to serve the children. But Common Good’s program goes far beyond just feeding them. The youth also benefit from volunteer mentors who serve as role models. Plus, they’re provided with other educational resources.

Following disruption during the COVID-19 pandemic, last summer’s Kids Cafe was welcome relief for hardworking parents trying to make sure their youngsters don’t go without essential meals, as well as important social and spiritual enrichment.

Marcia Risk and Cindy Frase cook weekly for the Kids Cafe. The two prepare and serve a hot meal for 50-70 kids every Wednesday.

Now in her eighth year of volunteering, Marcia, a retired social worker, says: “Sometimes students come back up asking for seconds, or thirds and fourths. Cindy and I might have to ask them to slow down so other kids can have a chance at a little more, too. And they never complain, they never say, ‘Ewwwww, we’re having that again?’ They’re just grateful.”

Marcia has watched kids flourish and go on to graduate from high school and college.

“We definitely couldn’t do it without the help of God’s Pantry Food Bank,” Marcia says. “I tell everybody what a great food bank it is! We always, always receive the best produce around; it’s absolutely delicious, often better than what I can get at the grocery store.”

Marcia remembers serving one student as a first grader who is now in high school. The grateful teen continues to benefit from the nourishing hot meals received—thanks to help like yours in providing for the Kids Cafe at Common Good.

Record-breaking Distribution in 2022

Last year, the tremendous generosity from our caring donor community to God’s Pantry Food Bank fueled an unprecedented response to assistance requests from hundreds of food pantries and meal programs across Central and Eastern Kentucky. In the aftermath of summer floods that devastated so many families and businesses in our eastern counties, the Food Bank recorded its single highest month of distributions in August—4,717,573 pounds of food and water left our warehouses for neighbors in urgent need. Through December 31, more than $577,000 was raised to facilitate the flood relief efforts. Assistance will continue in 2023 to families, individuals, and nonprofit partners as they recover and rebuild.

Every dollar of charitable support is directed responsibly, with utmost attention to the highest standards of accountability to our mission and transparency to our donors. 95.7% of all donations (financial, food, and commodities) go directly to our food distribution programs. God’s Pantry Food Bank has earned the highest 4-Star ranking by Charity Navigator for 14 consecutive years, signaling that donors can give with confidence. Visit GodsPantryFoodBank.org/learn for more information.
Disc Golf Association Scores Big for Hunger Relief

The Bluegrass Disc Golf Association (BDGA) is a member-oriented 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that promotes the fun and growth of the sport in Lexington and Central Kentucky.

As the popularity of disc golf (known to some as “Frisbee” golf) has grown significantly since the pandemic, so has BDGA's impact on several charities, including God’s Pantry Food Bank.

“It’s important to the club that we give back—we want to be a good steward in our community,” says Jarrett Spriggs, president of BDGA.

Funds are raised primarily through fees charged to players who compete in tournaments and leagues taking place year-round in parks across Lexington as well as Frankfort, Winchester, Richmond, Versailles, and Nicholasville.

BDGA made its first gift to God’s Pantry Food Bank in 2010, and their yearly support has been growing since. In fact, Spriggs says, “probably close to half of our total donations have come in the past three years.” Following the association’s 2022 winter Ice Bowl tournament, a check for $4,000 was presented to God’s Pantry Food Bank for hunger relief—an amount representing 28,000 meals for food-insecure neighbors throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky.

BDGA also supports other area causes and occasionally individuals in need, as well. “We ask our members for suggestions on charities that make sense. God’s Pantry is always right up there for what they want to support,” Spriggs notes.

“We’ve expanded from holding one Ice Bowl to two—hoping to accommodate even more players, with hopefully a greater amount to donate, as well.”

God’s Pantry Food Bank deeply appreciates the Bluegrass Disc Golf Association for its many years of partnership to reduce hunger in Central and Eastern Kentucky. Their members have helped provide over 150,000 meals through their generous support.

For more information about BDGA, visit their website at bdga.org and check out their Facebook page: Lexington Disc Golf Scene.

Spotlighting generous individuals and businesses who find creative ways to support the mission of God’s Pantry Food Bank

YES, Mike! I’ll help provide food and hope to Kentuckians facing hunger this season and throughout 2023.

☐ $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 monthly donor with a recurring 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 GodPantryFoodBank.org/wintermeals to make a gift online.

The mission of God’s Pantry Food Bank is reducing hunger by working together to feed Kentucky communities.

God’s Pantry Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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