On a sunny June afternoon, five cheerful volunteers at St. Luke Church worked swiftly to prepare the food pantry for the 40 neighbors scheduled to visit that day. Their tasks included stocking the shelves with canned and boxed goods, arranging bakery items, organizing fresh fruits and vegetables, and filling refrigerators and freezers with the bounty delivered by God’s Pantry Food Bank that morning.

With welcoming smiles, they greeted Food Bank staffers on a tour of three Fayette County pantries operated by the Food Bank in conjunction with local partners in hunger relief.

Mary Alice Daniels, Fayette County Pantry Program Manager, led the tours at Central Christian Church on E. Short Street, St. Luke Church on Alumni Drive, and the pantry at the Community Action Council building on Cambridge Drive. These facilities, along with a fourth pantry at the Northside branch of the Lexington Public Library, and a fifth pantry tentatively scheduled to open later this year at 817 Winchester Road, comprise our Fayette County Pantry Program.

Located on convenient Lextran bus routes, the pantries serve as safe, friendly spaces where neighbors can interact with each other and with the many caring volunteers, who generously give their time to keep the pantries staffed and stocked. On average each year, more than 31,000 households receive nearly 2 million pounds of nourishing food through this program, providing a vital resource of emergency food assistance for individuals of all ages.

Neighbors choose food from a variety of items to meet their households’ needs. Included are fresh produce and bakery goods, frozen meats such as chicken and beef, plus shelf-stable items like cereal, canned soups and beans, peanut butter and jelly, crackers, snacks, rice, flour, cooking oil, and more. Dairy, eggs, cheese, baby food, and household goods may be available in limited quantities.

Our thoughtful donor community makes it possible to operate these pantries year-round. Gifts of money and food provide critical support for this program, enabling each pantry to keep its doors open Monday through Friday for 2 hours daily. Food drives organized by local schools and businesses provide a much-needed variety of groceries to stock the pantry shelves, supplementing food items purchased in bulk by the Food Bank, along with groceries and prepared foods received through our Retail Store Donation Program.

We need your help to maintain food supplies in Fayette County and at more than 500 food pantries and meal programs in Central and Eastern Kentucky communities. Please make your caring gift today!

Thank you for your support!
Dear Friends,

Across Central and Eastern Kentucky, the need for access to nourishing food is real, affecting staggering numbers of people who struggle to put meals on their tables.

Recent data from Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap show more than 220,000 residents in our service area simply don’t have enough food to thrive. These households include 55,260 children.

At God’s Pantry Food Bank, we see this need each day, and we’re working harder than ever before to gather and move food resources to neighbors experiencing hunger. We appreciate your partnership with us to make this work possible.

Your generous compassion and support fuel our efforts to deliver food to more than 500 food pantries and meal program partners in 50 counties. These nonprofit organizations, along with our Fayette County Pantry Program and our service area Mobile Pantry Program, are putting produce, protein, and more in the hands of people who need it most.

Thanks to you, enough food for 36 million meals reached homes in Fayette, Floyd, Laurel, Rowan, and 46 other counties during the last 12 months. In that time span, the Food Bank distributed more pounds of food than at any other time in its 68-year history — 43 million pounds.

Infants, kids and teens, seniors, veterans, individuals facing housing insecurity, plus families of all sizes — these are the neighbors you are assisting through your financial gifts and volunteer service to the Food Bank.

Help make hunger visible by sharing this news with your family, friends, and colleagues. Encourage them to join you in making a difference in your community. It takes all of us working together to close the meal gap in Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Thank you for sharing your time and resources to make sure everyone has enough to eat. We can’t do this work without you, and we are always grateful for you.

Michael J. Halligan, CEO

A new way to shop for groceries is being developed to serve Lexington neighborhoods that lack retail food shopping options. In a continued effort to address insufficient nutrition, the City of Lexington and God’s Pantry Food Bank have partnered with Kroger to introduce the Lexington Mobile Market in areas that are food deserts, making it easier for neighbors to shop for healthy meal ingredients.

The Lexington Mobile Market will be a 60-foot trailer housing a single aisle stocked with a variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and nondairy foods, meats like chicken and beef, plus a limited selection of household items, such as toilet tissue, detergents and other cleaning products.

This market on wheels will use a cashless system for purchases. Customers will pay by debit card, credit card, or SNAP/EBT card. Stay tuned to our social media channels for the launch of the new Lexington Mobile Market.
Lexington’s longest-running food tasting event, Taste of the Bluegrass, changed venues this year, adding more room for the tremendous enthusiasm and fun had by everyone who participated. Presented by Quantrell Subaru, the largest annual in-person fundraiser for God’s Pantry Food Bank was held on May 12 at 2201 Innovation Drive. More than 800 attendees sampled delicious food and beverages from 41 premier restaurants, caterers, breweries, and wineries.

Always a crowd favorite, The Mercy Men provided fantastic music for everyone to dance the night away. The Kentucky Bourbon Pull, the Silent Auction featuring home décor, fun experiences, jewelry and more, plus the Kendra Scott Jewelry Pull were back by popular demand, adding even more excitement to an action-packed evening.

This year’s proceeds of nearly $180,000 will benefit vital hunger relief programs, creating 1.26 million meals for neighbors experiencing hunger.

Congratulations to all the vendors who won awards, including the Best of Taste Overall Winners — Dad’s Favorites Deli for Best Bite and Rivulet Artisan Pecan Liqueur for Best Sip.

Thank you to our generous sponsors, vendors, volunteers, donors, and guests for making this year’s event at the future home of the Food Bank one for the record books.

Quantrell Subaru
Central Bank
LG&E and KU Foundation
Traditional Bank
NiSource Charitable Foundation and Columbia Gas
The Allen Co., Inc.
Webasto
A Morehead Friend
State Farm Stewart Perry
The Boot Store
Humana
UK HealthCare

Make plans to join us at Taste 2024. Save the date of May 10th on your calendar and visit godspantry.org/events when tickets go on sale December 1st.

Did you know August is National Make-A-Will Month?

With a legal will, you can approach the future with peace of mind by having a plan that communicates your wishes, provides for your loved ones, and sustains the causes you believe in. We’ve partnered with FreeWill to make it easier than ever to start your will and make your most important plan for the future.

The 41st Taste of the Bluegrass Spotlights Our Future Home!

What can you do to make a difference in the lives of neighbors experiencing hunger?

- Make a thoughtful gift today or become a monthly donor.
- Host a fund or food drive.
- Purchase food items when shopping and place them in our blue collection barrels at local grocery stores.
- Sign up to become a volunteer.
- Participate in the 2023 Basket Brigade. Tickets on sale in September.
- Learn more at godspantry.org and share our story with your friends, family, and colleagues to encourage them to join you and the Food Bank to sustain and improve critical hunger relief programs.
- Consider a gift of appreciated stocks and securities, an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, or a gift in your estate plans using our FreeWill tools.
Cornbread Corner

Keeping the shelves stocked in local food pantries is a year-round job. Food and fund drives help God’s Pantry Food Bank stock a wider variety of food choices to supplement the food items we purchase in bulk. From July 2022 — June 2023, more than 192,000 pounds of food were donated, along with $20,300 in cash gifts, for our Fayette County Pantry Program.

To learn how you can conduct an in-person or virtual food drive, visit godspantry.org/getinvolved/fooddrive. Stay tuned to our social media channels for news of upcoming events, including special food drives for Hunger Action Month this September.

Thank you to everyone who works diligently each year to host an in-person or online event, volunteers to sort food, or donates food items in our blue barrels at Kroger and other retail stores. Enjoy these photos from recent food drives in Lexington.

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

YES, 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.

CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

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/foodnow to make a gift online.