



Perry County Food Bank

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April, 2017

“God’s dream is that you and I and all of us will realize that we are family, that we are made for togetherness, for goodness, and for compassion.” Desmond Tutu

We hope that everyone survived the late winter “blizzard” that dumped 18” of snow on us on the 14th of March. It seems that the groundhog may have actually hit the nail-on-the-head this year and spring has come in on time one week after the big snow. As a bonus, we have had the onion snow since we now have onions peeping through the ground in the demonstration garden next to our building in New Bloomfield. It’s getting to be the time for everyone to start preparing their gardens. Onion sets and seeds have arrived and are being made available to our customers when they come in to shop so that they can get started growing their own food for this summer.

Speaking of the storm, it prompts us to praise our wonderful volunteers here and at our eight distribution sites around the county. The storm hit on Tuesday and on Wednesday morning we were able to open up since our parking lot was cleared. We only had six customers who had dug out and were able to make it in for food. On the other hand, eleven of our volunteers braved the storm and showed up to meet any needs. It was the same at all of our remote sites on that Saturday. There was the threat of freezing rain and yet the volunteers all showed up to help take care of our customers. We feel truly blessed with the commitment and concern for others that our people demonstrate.

This has been a good month for eggs. Karns has been having great sales on eggs and we have had people and churches who have been buying them up and bringing them in for our customers to enjoy. Eggs are one of our most popular items so we are thrilled to get them and this abundance has allowed us to offer more than one dozen to those who wanted them. People frequently ask us what they can get for us here at the store. Our response is to look for items on sale and buy those items. By looking for sales, you can get more items for your dollar and reach more people.

Sometimes we run into customers who have unusual circumstances which require them to use items that are difficult for us to locate in our normal channels. We have several older people who have medical conditions that require them to drink Ensure, or Boost, nutritional meal replacement drinks. We also have a family where the children have a medical condition that requires them to use corn starch every day. The family goes through 76 pounds of Argo Corn Starch each month. The corn starch has to be Argo as other starches have something that causes problems for the children. In these cases, and others, we are always on the lookout for deals to try and help them whenever we can.

In the month of February, we served 1,200 households and 2,726 individuals. We had 39 new households and 80 new individuals. In the month of March, our numbers were 1,162 households with 33 new households and 2,717 individuals with 65 of them new.

April showers bring May flowers.... It’s great watching the color come back into the plants and vegetation. The grass and the fields are returning to green and the spring flowers are splashing the landscape with vibrant colors after looking at the drab grays and browns of winter. We hope that you all are able watch the show that the Lord of creation is so graciously giving to everyone in the world around us. Thank you for caring and sharing.

Linda Bates & John Kiner
Co-directors, Perry County Food Bank