



Perry County Food Bank

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“Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation’s compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another.” -- Erma Bombeck

In 1991, then President George H.W. Bush created his *1000 Points of Light* campaign and April became National Volunteer Month. Volunteers were recognized as the backbone of many organizations in the United States and part of what made America great. Many fire companies, ambulance associations, and non-profit organizations depend on volunteers to be able to operate. Without them, they would not exist. The Perry County Food Bank and its eight remote distribution sites are no different. We would not be able to operate as efficiently and as economically as we do without the dedication of scores of faithful volunteers.

Our volunteers handle client intakes and signups, drive our trucks, pick up food and donations, pack bags (BackPack) with food each week during the school year, so kids will have food on weekends when school breakfasts and lunches are unavailable, and then deliver those bags to the five elementary schools throughout the county. Volunteers pack boxes and bags with food each month for those in need at our eight distribution sites; they sort donations, break down bulk foods and repack them to make them available in our store. They manage our warehouse, receive skids of food and break them down and store the products on shelves. They assist our customers in our store with their shopping and then check them out and then carry their bags of food to their vehicles.

Volunteers do all of our clerical work. They record all of our donations and enter them into our computer database. They generate thank-you letters, do all of our filing, record all transactions with clients and then enter that information into our computer system. They organize and file all of the paperwork that comes back from distribution sites, from our New Bloomfield facility, and from our driver’s various logs for checking refrigeration temperatures at distribution sites and for food temperatures in transit.

And all of our volunteers do all of this work in a cheerful manner treating our clients with respect and even love. It’s only right that America would recognize and celebrate all of these people who do so much for others in thousands of organizations throughout the country. And we celebrate with them the indispensable volunteers that make such a difference in the lives of so many here in Perry County.

In the month of February, our numbers were 1,156 households with 25 considered new and 2,730 individuals with 45 being new and in March we served 1,176 households with 20 of them being new and 3,056 individuals and 46 were new.

We are reminded with what Winston Churchill said about volunteering. *“You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.”* Make sure to reach out and thank a volunteer this month. Thank you for all that you do for us.

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