



Perry County Food Bank

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Instead of comparing yourself to those who have what you want, compare yourself to those who have less to increase your gratitude. -- Rita Chester

It's hard to believe that it is August already! July went by in a blur for us as we had to go through new paperwork for all of our clients. Fortunately we have some great volunteers who come in each year to handle this very task. They are truly lifesavers for us as they can handle all of the required paperwork; know the forms, and how to deal with them. It makes the hectic work go smoothly for all of us.

We have been getting rain regularly this summer and that has produced bumper crops in gardens and backyard flocks. Our thanks go out to everyone who has brought in their extra food that has been produced and shared it with our customers. The cucumbers, zucchini, corn, cabbage, and eggs have been wonderful. Our customers are always grateful for fresh produce and fresh eggs and we are always happy to be able to offer healthy, fresh, and nutritious local foods.

August is also the start of a new school year. We are still in the middle of the summer food service program that made it's debut in the county this summer at various churches. The Vacation Bible School sites did well and everyone seemed to be impressed with the meals that were provided. At the sites that met all summer long, the beginning was a little slow but picked up some as the summer progressed. We are encouraged that we have the program started in various places and it introduced the program and meals to us. We will evaluate the programs once the summer is over to see what worked and what didn't to be able to prepare for next year.

School begins this month and with that there are a number of things going on. Join Hands Ministry has their school supplies backpack program for kids returning to school. For more information about this program, or to volunteer, or donate, or to apply, please visit their Website at <https://joinhands.help/> and click on the "Our Programs and Forms" tab at the top or call them at 717-582-7844.

We are also in the process of organizing our weekend food Backpack program for kids once school starts. This program provides a qualifying student with a bag of food to take home each weekend so that when they return to school on Monday mornings they won't be starving and will be ready to begin working. The program will be in all of the elementary schools in the county this year so we are beginning to organize our food deliveries for the program and the help to pack the food each week. With six schools to deliver Backpacks to, we are also in the process of planning our delivery routes and scheduling drivers. For more information about this program, please visit their FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/PeCoBackPack/.

In the month of June, we served 1,198 households and 2,890 individuals. We had 35 new households and 91 new individuals. In the month of July, our numbers were 1,123 households with all of them considered new as new paperwork need to be completed for everyone in July, and 2,780 individuals with all of those being new.

For those of you who love the heat and the humidity, enjoy it! The rest of us are looking forward to September and October and cooler weather. Thanks to all of you for your continued support through the lazy, hazy days of summer. Stay cool!

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