



## Perry County Food Bank

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December, 2016

*"Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings, all the snow in Alaska won't make it 'white'."*  
-- Bing Crosby

Another year has come, and is just about gone, and we are now in the middle of the holiday season. This time of year, especially November and December, is busy at the food bank. People are looking to have food to make the season special for their families. At the same time it is also the start of the heating season and that means less money is available in the food budget. All of this makes the food bank important in our clients lives in helping to make ends meet and to be able to put good nutritious food on the table.

By the end of the year we will have distributed over 500,000 pounds of food to our clients throughout the county. That will have come from private donations by organizations, churches, individuals and businesses as well as purchased food from the Central PA Food Bank, wholesalers, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. All of our work is only possible because of the support we receive from all of you and because of a very dedicated group of volunteers.

November proved to be a busy month for us in our warehouse as well. Thank you to everyone who organized or participated in a food drive. We received thousands of pounds of food through those drives and from individuals who were moved to share some of their blessings with others. We had dozens and dozens of turkeys donated by individuals and organizations that supplemented the ones that we purchased from Giant Foods in Newport and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. The Greater Harrisburg Realtors Foundation alone donated 80 turkeys that took us through to Thanksgiving itself. Thanks to all of our warehouse volunteers who sorted through literally thousands of pounds of food and moved the products onto our shelves.

Our BackPack program is now packing over 360 bags of food for students each weekend and holiday. Those bags contain enough food for two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, and two snacks. Chris Voorhees coordinates and runs this program and it is now in five of the elementary schools in the county. She would appreciate any help that she can get with donations of food and funding. For information about the program and the items that they need, check out their FaceBook page at [www.facebook.com/PeCoBackPack/](https://www.facebook.com/PeCoBackPack/)

In the month of November, we served 1,383 households and 3,528 individuals. We had 65 new households and 207 new individuals. In October, our numbers were 1,219 households with 89 new households and 2,929 individuals with 231 of them new.

Along with Irving Berlin and Bing Crosby, *"we're dreaming of a white Christmas with every Christmas card we write. May your days be merry and bright — and may all your Christmases be white!"* Merry Christmas.

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