



Perry County Food Bank

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“Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.”
—Norman Vincent Peale

Thanksgiving has come and gone and we were able, for the first year since we have been directors, to have turkeys available for everyone who wanted one. We are thankful to all of you who have helped to make Thanksgiving special for all of our customers. For the food drives, the Harvest Home collections in churches, the monetary donations that made turkey and food purchases possible, for the individuals, churches, and businesses who dropped off turkeys and food for the meal, for all of these and more we say a heartfelt “Thank You!” You have all, truly, been a blessing to our neighbors who have fallen on hard times.

As we write this, it appears that the Farm Bill has finally, after many long months of debate, passed in the House of Representatives. This bill is important to us as it contains funding for feeding the hungry. One of the sticking points in the bill was the SNAP program (Food Stamps) where the debate was about making the recipients work for their benefits. Not a bad idea but one which surely would have created more bureaucracy that, in all probability, would have cost more to police the program than to let it alone.

In October, our numbers were 1,126 households with 79 considered new and 2,661 individuals with 209 being new. In November we served 1,198 households with 75 of them being new and 2,815 individuals with 182 being new.

During this time of year, we hear about “Peace on Earth, good will toward men.” The phrase comes from the Bible’s book of Luke where we read about angels announcing Christ’s birth using that phrase. In today’s world, peace seems to be such an impossible goal. But peace is more than just the absence of conflict — whether of nations or between individuals. Peace is also a state of mind. In Hebrew, the word for peace is shalom and it carries the idea being healthy, whole, complete, and being in a place of tranquility where you are free from annoyance, distraction, and anxiety. It’s being able to go to bed at night with no worries that will keep you awake.

As cheerful as this time of year is for many of us, there are many more where the holidays can be a very trying time. For some it is the loss of loved ones which brings stress — and the loss of peace. For some it is wondering where you will be able to find enough food to feed yourself and your family and the anxiety that goes with that — which brings no peace. For those people in Perry County finding food should not be a problem because of people like you who are aware that the problem exists and take action to help alleviate the anxiety and bring a sense of peace, at least in this one area that can cause so much concern, especially for parents with children.

May you experience peace — shalom — at this time of year as you have helped to provide it to our customers through your compassionate giving. Merry Christmas!

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