



Perry County Food Bank

300A South Carlisle Street
New Bloomfield, PA 17068
Phone: 717-582-9978 • Fax: 717-582-9979
E-mail: pcfoodbank@perryco.org
Website: www.perrycountyfoodbank.org
Like us at [FaceBook.com/perrycountyfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/perrycountyfoodbank)



February, 2017

*"Away in a meadow all covered with snow, the little old groundhog looks for his shadow.
The clouds in the sky determine our fate, if winter will leave us all early or late." – Don Halley.*

As February arrives, we say goodbye to, what I call, the “dark months” of December and January. Admittedly the two months of “darkness” that we face here in Pennsylvania aren’t nearly as bad as the two-plus months of darkness that some places in Alaska face, but it can still be pretty depressing for some of us who go to work in the dark and return home in the dark – and on top of that it’s cold! Here at the food bank we have had to deal with several days of icy and snowy roads that kept our customers at home on the days that they would normally have come in to shop.

So when February arrives, we are all hoping that our resident, furry rodent-prognosticator in Punxsutawney will emerge to a cloudy, dreary day, thus insuring an early start to spring. From the standpoint of our clients, and all of us for that matter, the arrival of Groundhog day brings us about two thirds of the way through the heating season with light at the end of the dark tunnel and the promise of less money needed for heating fuel and more money available for food and other essentials.

On a bittersweet note, our administrative assistant/intake coordinator Wanda Nearhood has resigned, after two years as part of the food bank family, to take a job with Rohrer Bus in Duncannon as part of their accounting department. Wanda’s smiling face and cheery disposition will be greatly missed by our clients, volunteers, and especially by both of us as she made our jobs easier and more enjoyable. As much as we will miss her, we must let her go and wish her well as she begins to travel this next road on her life’s journey.

Also in February, we will be looking at the Summer Food Service Program that the Department of Education is encouraging rural counties to consider. It provides food for kids in the summer months after the school’s free and reduced lunches and our Backpack program end in June. It is a great program for organizations and churches to use to reach out to kids in their communities. If this is something that you and/or your church might be interested in, we will be meeting with Dave Lloyd, the Youth Program Manager of the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank, on Thursday, February 9th at 2:30 p.m. here at the food bank in New Bloomfield. Interested people are invited to join us that afternoon as we investigate the possibility of implementing this program here in Perry County. Please call and let us know if you plan to attend.

In the month of December, we served 1,202 households and 2,919 individuals. We had 47 new households and 111 new individuals. In January, our numbers were 1,271 households with 38 new households and 3,054 individuals with 102 of them new.

We can’t leave this month’s newsletter without sharing with all of you about the fantastic food drive that Karns Foods in New Bloomfield did for us in December and January. Karns employees packaged up bags of food items with a value of \$8 or more and then made those bags available to their customers to purchase for \$5 each to donate to our food bank. Karns then matched each bag that was purchased. Through the generosity of Karns and their Perry County customers, 1,422 bags of food weighing more than 4 tons were donated to help feed the hungry. Thank you to Karns and to everyone else who was concerned about hunger in Perry County and then did something about it by participating in this program. You are all amazing.

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