



Perry County Food Bank
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“Too often we underestimate the power of touch. A smile. A kind word. A listening ear. An honest compliment. Or the smallest act of caring. All of which have the potential to turn a life around.” -Leo Buscaglia

It was a pretty mild winter up until mid and late January. And then the weather didn't know what season it was. First it was temperatures in the fifties and then the numbers on the thermometer dropped to zero only to rise into the fifties and sink again even below the zero-degree mark. And through all of that we had snow -- some very wet and some very dry. Now that it's February, the warmth of the holidays and time with family and friends is a distant memory and the hope of spring seems far too distant. Fortunately, it is the shortest month and then we can move onto the hope and promise that March usually brings with hints of spring.

January was a crazy month in other ways as well. There was the limited federal shutdown where workers went without pay checks for a month. We joined the Central PA Food Bank in being ready to step in and help out-of-work families find food for their tables while the stand-off continued.

On a brighter side, Karns Foods in New Bloomfield ran a program in December where their customers could donate \$5 and Karns would provide \$7 worth of food to the Food Bank. In the beginning of January we received six pallets of food totaling 7,791 pounds with a value of \$13,231.86 courtesy of Karns and their Perry County customers. On January 5th, Rebecca Lupfer, vice president for Giant Foods delivered a check for \$2,500 for serving those in need within our community. Toward the end of the month, we received a much appreciated grant for \$35,000 from Hoverter Foundation to purchase food for our customers. That grant alone will provide more than 210,000 meals during the next year.

In September, two Graphic Design students from HACC, Jane Delancey and Dena Michael, met with both of us. They needed to do some pro bono graphic design work for a non-profit to satisfy the requirements for their class. They wondered if there was anything that they could do for us. We suggested a brochure, some posters and a new logo. They consulted with us during the semester and we gave them some ideas and tweaked ones that they designed. When the semester was over, we had two logos that we liked as well as other print material. We decided on the logo that is at the top of this newsletter to replace the shopping cart one that we have been using for years. Look for the new design on print materials that we will be updating throughout the year.

In December, our numbers were 1,149 households with 45 considered new and 2,689 individuals with 126 being new. In January we served 1,081 households with 44 of them being new and 2,587 individuals with 110 being new.

Think spring!

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