



January, 2020

Perry County Food Bank
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“Year’s end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instill in us”
– Hal Borland

2019 has been a year of positive learning, change and growth for me personally due to working with the Food Bank. I am very fortunate for these things, but for many of our neighbors it has been another year of struggling with poverty and hunger. Unfortunately, to many of the families we see will continue to struggle into 2020.

Each person and family that seeks assistance from the Food Bank has a story as to what brought them to needing help with feeding themselves and their families. Sadly, many working parents simply don’t make enough money to pay daycare and daily living expenses without needing help in supplementing their family food needs, the working poor. Some have lost a life partner to death or their partner simply moved on from the relationship often leaving children behind with nothing. Many elderly people are forced to try to live on \$800 a month in Social Security while others have become ill and still others have lost their employment. For all of these people and families I pray 2020 eases their burden. Until then, we will be here to help support them.

Looking back on 2019 there has been so much change at the Food Bank. We were blessed with a grant to purchase a used but much bigger and greatly needed box truck with a lift gate and refrigeration. This truck gives us the ability to bring larger quantities of food to those needing our support in one trip be it from the Central Penn Food Bank or our generous local farmers and stores. It helps us to safely deliver the Back Pack Program food to the schools as well.

We were able to purchase a pick up truck with a cap for a deeply discounted price from a local Perry County dealership. This truck makes it possible for us to continue to pick up donations of a smaller scale. Two of the trucks we went into 2019 with became un-repairable. We purchased a power pallet jack for the box truck also.

We saw a change in Leadership in 2019. Linda Bates retired in July after 6 years of service as the Co-Director and John Kiner retired January 4, 2020 after 10 years of dedicated service. Both will be missed greatly. Looking in to 2020, I will be the new Director and will have much to learn. John and Linda were a well oiled and loved team for many years! I am working on finding a person or persons to assist me in continuing to run the Food Bank just as smoothly. More change on the horizon!

Our numbers reflecting people and families we assisted for December were:
2,774 Individuals / 1117 Households

Our numbers for the entire years of 2019 are:
31,074 Individuals / 12,888 Households

We are simply so blessed and thankful for all of the Churches, Organizations, grants and private donors that continue to financially support the Food Bank. We are also blessed to have the wonderful volunteers that help to operate the Food Bank. As John always said, without them, it wouldn’t be possible!

Mary Ann Brownawell, Director