



Perry County Food Bank

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June, 2016

“When people were hungry, Jesus didn’t say, “Now is that political, or social?” He said, “I feed you.” Because the good news to a hungry person is bread.” -- Desmond Tutu

In April, our numbers were 1,256 households with 59 of them new households and 3,062 individuals with 152 of them new. For the month of May, we served 1,204 households and 2,963 individuals. We had 21 new households and 65 new individuals.

On Tuesday, May 24th, we attended the Perry County Community Foundation’s awards banquet at Highland Presbyterian Church in Newport. It was a wonderful meal prepared by the people of Highland Presbyterian and an informative and educational program by the Foundation. During the program, the Foundation presented checks to various organizations, including the food bank, which had grants awarded to them. Our grant money will be used to update our computer system. The Perry County Community Foundation does wonderful work in support of various organizations that provide services to residents of Perry County.

The Duncannon Post Office participated in the National Association of Letter Carriers’ Food Drive on Saturday, May 14th. The donations collected from the residents of Duncannon completely filled our pickup truck. It weighed in at over 2,000 pounds and was a very welcome addition to our food stocks at the store in New Bloomfield.

May was the month for education for us. On Tuesday, May 3rd, four of us attended a breakfast meeting at the Radisson Hotel in Camp Hill on being “Prepared for the Unexpected”. The Foundation for Enhancing Communities provided the opportunity for us and it featured presentations by fire, police, Homeland Security, and FEMA personnel. It was a very eye-opening experience for us and has us now reevaluating our procedures at the food bank.

The afternoon of May 24th found two of our intake people and both of us participating in CPR, First Aid, and AED training at the prison next door to the food bank. The Red Cross graciously gave the food bank an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). As part of the donation agreement, we needed to provide training on the use of the unit for our people. The County Commissioners graciously allowed us to take that training along with prison staff at no cost. Four of us are now certified in its use as well as CPR and First Aid.

You may have read recently that the State Legislature approved the PA Agricultural Surplus System’s (PASS) appropriation for the current fiscal year. This \$1 million grant will provide support to PA growers and producers as well as support the emergency feeding network across Pennsylvania. We have been notified that we have been selected to receive a PASS grant because we are a consistent user of the primary items supported by the grant – fresh produce, fresh milk, and fresh eggs. Our share of the grant is around \$1,500 and will help with our purchases of the supported grant items from the Central PA Food Bank in Harrisburg.

June is the traditional kick-off of the vacation season and we hope all of you will be able to slow down in the heat of the season and enjoy some well-deserved downtime. From our newly acquired first aid training we remind you to stay cool and stay hydrated!

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