



Perry County Food Bank

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"The wise man does not lay up his own treasures. The more he gives to others, the more he has for his own." Lao Tzu

This month, we want to recognize some of the acts of giving by students here in the county during the month of May.

The Greenwood FFA held a "Spike Down Hunger" event back at the end of March where they held a volleyball tournament, bingo, and a food stand. The two of us were invited to attend their annual awards banquet on May 19th where we were presented with a check for \$5,000 from that effort as well as a van full of toilet paper for our clients (a very necessary and greatly appreciated item!).

On Monday, May 15th, the two of us were invited to speak with Mrs. Jen McCurdy's 3rd grade class at New Bloomfield Elementary School about the Food Bank and the Backpack program. After a very lively discussion, the class presented us with Birthday Party Kits for the kids who use the Food Bank. Her class wanted Food Bank kids who have birthdays coming up to enjoy a party that many other kids just take for granted. They created birthday kits that contained cups, plates, balloons, hats, and other items for a super party for eight people. Did we point out that these were third graders?

Also during May, West Perry FFA presented the Food Bank with the last of the proceeds from the funds they raised at Blain Heritage days. Six pigs were purchased and we received pork from two of those pigs each month during the three coldest months of winter. It provided sausage for breakfasts for hundreds of people.

Throughout the school year, Mrs. Keyes' class at West Perry Middle School came into the Food Bank on the third Monday of each month and packaged over 200 boxes of food for each monthly distribution at New Bloomfield. They kept our adult volunteers racing trying to keep items on the tables as the kids were packing them in to each box. They were fast, but, more importantly, they were accurate. The adults that worked with them were always impressed.

It is refreshing when we see the compassion and care that kids in Perry County have for others and their willingness to work to help meet those needs. It is a humbling experience for us when we meet with these kids and see what they have done.

On another note, we are in need of someone who can create and program Access®, a Microsoft computer program that we use for keeping and organizing all of our client information. The program we have needs to be updated and have some changes made and we haven't a clue! If you are able to work with this program and could give us a few hours of your time, please contact us at 717 582-9978 and ask for Linda or John on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday. Please leave a message if we are not open.

In the month of April, we served 1,191 households and 2,767 individuals. We had 29 new households and 67 new individuals. In the month of May, our numbers jumped to 1,247 households with 32 new households and 3,021 individuals with 74 of those being new.

When we accepted the check at the Greenwood banquet we recognized a group of amazing kids, who were that way because of amazing parents, an amazing school district, amazing teachers and an amazing community. We could also add an amazing county where the residents see the needs of others and have the compassion to reach out and help. Thank you.

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