



Perry County Food Bank

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March 2018

Kindness is just love with its work boots on. – Victoria Moran

The month of March has arrived, coming in like a lion as the saying goes. As we write this we have had great spring weather but the call is out for high winds coming, maybe gusting to 60 mph on the first day of the month. But it is March, the month that doesn't quite know what it wants to be—winter or spring. Sometimes both in the same day! Our experience has shown that you only have to wait -- some of the biggest snows that we have had in the past happened in March. The good thing is that March snow doesn't hang around for very long!

The Super Bowl is over and a Pennsylvania team emerged the champions. Congratulations to the Eagles and all their fans. (If it couldn't be Pittsburgh I guess it was good to be Philadelphia!) Super Bowl Sunday was also "Souper" Bowl Sunday in a lot of our churches and we literally had thousands of cans collected and donated. Thanks to everyone who participated in all of these various events that gave us soup for our shelves at a perfect time of year for soup.

At this time of year we have gone through most of the donated food that we received in the holiday months of November and December. By far, those two months are our busiest in terms of donations and also the number of clients that we see. As we move into spring, our numbers begin to gradually fall as the weather warms and money that was needed for heat begins to become available for food and other necessities. We have many people who only use the Food Bank as a last resort and once circumstances ease for them they stop coming in order to free resources for others.

We shared with you last month our plans for an addition to our building to provide space for outside agencies to come in and provide other services for our clients when they come in to get their food. An architect has done a feasibility study for us and it appears that this is a very doable project. The projected cost is (worst case scenario) around \$450,000. He, the architect, and we believe that if we can do this project without government monies we should be able to do it for a little more than half that cost, or around \$300,000. That is what we are shooting for right now. We have decided that we will not borrow money to build this project and we will only build it if we can find the funds to do it. If the funds cannot be found, we will take that as an indication that God does not want it built and we will abandon it. (If you are wondering, no one has come forward yet with the \$100,000 - \$200,000 from the February newsletter. We are still hopeful!)

If anyone would happen to have an old propane bottle for a forklift that is still serviceable that you could donate, we would appreciate it greatly. (These are not the same as gas bottles for your grill.)

In the month of January, we served 1,253 households with 42 of those being new and 3,090 individuals with 108 of those being new. In the month of February, our numbers were 1,156 households with 25 considered new and 2,730 individuals with 45 being new.

Thank you for realizing that there are people in the county with real needs and for your desire to help meet those needs. And thank you for the encouragement that you give to us. Your notes, calls, and kind words touch us deeply.

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