



Perry County Food Bank

300A South Carlisle Street

New Bloomfield, PA 17068

Phone: 717-582-9978 • Fax: 717-582-9979

E-mail: pcfoodbank@perryco.org

Website: www.perrycountyfoodbank.org

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"Life is not about receiving at all times; it is a combination of being thankful for what you have as blessings and sharing those blessings with others who need a little fraction of what you have." Catherine Pulsifer

Wednesday, April 26th was Administrative Professionals' Day. Administrative Professionals used to be called Secretaries but the day honoring them changed to embrace all administrative assistants. We have two full-time intake people who are volunteers and the work that they do is certainly deserving of a little extra recognition once a year. They are a big part of the reason why things run smoothly for the food bank, and by extension, for both of us.

We have been telling you about the Summer Food Service Program that the Department of Education has for feeding kids in the summer when kids aren't in school. We are happy to announce that there are several churches in the county that are going to give the program a try this summer. One is going to run the program throughout the week; one is going to run it during their Vacation Bible School program; and at least one is going to run it one or two days a week throughout the summer. We are excited to see that we have some churches that are willing to give the program a try and it will give us some idea about how the program works and whether it is something that is worth pursuing by others in the future.

Our Backpack Program is winding down now as we head for June and the end of the school year. We are finishing the year packing 376 bags of food for kids each week to see them through the weekend. That is up from the 333 bags that were packed each week at the start of the school year. We delivered to five of the elementary schools in the county and next year, the plan is to be delivering to all six elementary schools: Blain, Carroll, Greenwood, New Bloomfield, Newport, and Susquenita. This program is run by Christine Voorhees and her team of volunteers who receive the deliveries of food and then do the actual packing each week and prepare the bags for delivery to the schools. Christine and the Backpack Program were honored by the Perry County Chamber of Commerce at their annual banquet as the 2016 Non-profit Program. Chris and her team are to be congratulated for the amazing work that they do in reaching out to hungry kids.

May is upon us and the growing season is under way. We have people asking us if we are interested in the excess produce from their gardens and the answer is a resounding YES. You planted that whole pack of zucchini and now what are you going to do? We will take your zucchini! Any excess food that you may produce and don't know what to do with is gratefully accepted by us. Our customers are always happy to have fresh, healthy produce available to them. We are open Monday and Wednesday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for donation drop-offs and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. (You can use those hours to drop off the zucchini. There is no need to sneak in before dawn to leave them on our porch so that no one will know from where they came!)

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 March, our numbers were 1,162 households with 33 new households and 2,717 individuals with 65 of them new.

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