



Perry County Food Bank
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The closest thing to being cared for is to care for someone else. — Carson McCullers

The month of May is a transition month in many ways for us at the Food Bank. We are headed toward the end of the school year in early June so we are moving toward the end of our Backpack program for the school year. This involves a little bit of a juggling act as we order food from our suppliers to fill in the donations that we've had and do it all in a way that we will have little or no food left in storage until the program resumes at the end of September. This program is one of the most popular that we have with our clients as well as with donors.

The program provides food to kids to get them through the weekend when school breakfasts and lunches are not available. It allows them to come into school on Monday morning ready to work rather than sitting and fidgeting in class anxiously awaiting the chance to get to the cafeteria to get food. One of our concerns is what these kids will do for food in the summer when the food that they were able to get in school is gone. The state Department of Education has a summer food program that will supply food for kids. The problem that we have in Perry County is how to get the kids to the food or the food to the kids.

We currently have churches in New Bloomfield, Duncannon, and Newport who are using this program to supply lunches for school students. You will notice that these sites are in towns where they can walk to the site to get to the food. We would love to see more churches or organizations that would be willing to run this program in their area so that more children could be served. If you would be interested in exploring this possibility, please contact either of us at the Food Bank number above.

The month of May gives us all a day off for Memorial Day on Monday the 27th. For too many of us it is just a holiday to be enjoyed with family and friends. But the purpose of the day is to remember. As Americans we need to remember the freedoms that we enjoy and remember those who won those liberties for us and sacrificed their lives so that we could keep them. When I, John, was a kid, many decades ago, it was known as Decoration Day and my parents and grandparents would go to the cemetery in the morning to place flowers on the graves of those who served in the armed forces and on the graves of family members. The afternoon and evening were the times for picnics and fun with family and friends, but morning was the time to remember. I remember looking across the cemetery and seeing all of the flowers on the graves and all of the American flags marking the graves of those who "stood in the breach" to protect us and our way of life. So, this Memorial Day we would encourage you all to take some time to remember what the day is all about and give thanks.

In April, our numbers were 1,086 households with 40 considered new and 2,510 individuals with 95 being new. In March we served 1,050 households with 44 of them being new and 2,523 individuals with 97 being new.

We remember the sacrifices that many of you make to reach out through us to help the hungry in Perry County and we give thanks for all that you are doing for others,

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