



Perry County Food Bank

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“Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.” – William Arthur Ward

Thanksgiving! It’s hard for us to believe that it’s November and we are looking at the holiday season already. It seems like it was just summer and now Thanksgiving is fast approaching with the Christmas season right behind. Maybe it’s because we are both getting older, but time seems to be moving faster and faster.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we have much for which we are thankful, just as we are sure all of you do as well. We have both had the privilege of serving in this capacity for over three years now and the one thing that we have learned from the start is gratitude. As our quote from William Ward states, our gratitude takes ordinary days and turns them into days of thanksgiving and takes our ordinary jobs and turns them into joy. The ordinary opportunities that we see everyday are turned into blessings for us and for those we serve. The blessings are also for all of you who believe in what we are doing and want to be a part of it.

We began November ready to help our customers to make the Thanksgiving holiday a little brighter for their families. Although times may have been rough during the year, when we get to Thanksgiving we all would like to gather around a table of food and share it with family and friends -- not only the food, but also the things for which we are thankful.

Here at the food bank, our preparations for the holidays began all the way back in the summer. We began to purchase the food items needed for the meal as they became available at good prices. We started buying turkeys, as well as the other items for the meal, in August. Our warehouse has had pallets of Thanksgiving items, such as gravy, stuffing, and mashed potatoes, stacked to the ceiling since September. Turkeys have found their way into our freezers since the summer months as well. Many of these items came from the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank in Harrisburg and we are thankful for their support throughout the year.

We are very thankful to the Giant Food store in Newport for their “Bag Hunger” programs that they run in the spring and fall. The funds from those drives allow us to purchase turkeys and roasting chickens at this time of year for Thanksgiving meals for our customers. We are also thankful to the Greater Harrisburg Realtors Foundation who has consistently donated turkeys and meals to us for distribution during the holidays throughout the years.

We are also thankful for all of the individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations that organize food drives for us at this time of year. All of these drives yield thousands of pounds of donated food which we make available for our customers use to make their holidays complete. We are overwhelmed at the generosity of the community and their desire to help others. There are times that our gratitude is nearly inexpressible.

For the month of October, we served 1,219 households and 2,929 individuals. We had 89 new households and 231 new individuals. In September, our numbers were 1,175 households with 102 new households and 2,849 individuals with 258 of them new.

May your Thanksgiving be as happy and blessed as you have truly made Thanksgiving happy and blessed for others.

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