



Perry County Food Bank

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*Over the river and through the woods, To grandmother's house we go;
The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh, Through (the) white and drifted snow!
Over the river and through the woods, Trot fast, my dapple gray!
Spring over the ground, like a hunting hound! For this is Thanksgiving Day!*

It's Thanksgiving! This is probably the busiest time of the year for us here at the Food Bank. We start planning for November in December of the previous year. Last year we lined up the turkeys that we are using for this year's clients and arranged for storage in an ice house for a year. With the cost of the turkeys and the storage we paid about 25 cents a pound. In the previous two years we have been buying turkeys for \$1.50 a pound and were limited as to how many we could afford. This year we will not have to limit turkeys and anyone who would like one should be able to get one.

We were saddened to learn that one of our longest serving volunteers who worked at our Newport distribution site in St. Paul's Lutheran Church passed away at the end of October. Franklin (Frankie) McDermond helped with the distribution of food at the monthly distribution in Newport for literally decades -- starting with helping his mother and then continuing on after her passing. His help and assistance are already greatly missed.

Giant Foods, which strongly supports our work here at the Food Bank, is again having free turkeys for their customers with sufficient bonus points. If you don't have a use for a turkey that you may be eligible for, please consider donating it to the food bank. Although we may not need it for Thanksgiving, Christmas follows closely behind and we will have clients who are looking for turkeys for their Christmas dinners in December and will appreciate them very much.

Sometimes we get answers to prayer in the strangest ways. Each year we have a Thanksgiving bag available for our customers who would like one. It contains the rest of a Thanksgiving turkey dinner and includes potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, and turkey gravy. We decided to include a cake mix and frosting for dessert as well. We just needed 750 cake mixes. We have had churches and organizations donating mixes but thought that we might have to purchase mixes to make up the balance. We send our truck to Harrisburg each Wednesday to pick up food for our site at New Bloomfield. We had space left on the truck a couple of weeks ago and the warehouse had a skid of food that they wanted to clear out and asked if we would take it. We said yes and when we got it back to our warehouse we off-loaded it and found that it was a whole skid -- of cake mix! It was more than enough to finish our packing. It always amazes us how things can come together to answer prayers!

May you spend Thanksgiving Day with family, friends, and loved ones around a special meal where you can give thanks for those people and things that you do have in your life that make it meaningful.

In the month of October, our numbers were 1,126 households with 79 considered new and 2,660 individuals with 209 being new. In September we served 1,037 households with 92 of them being new and 2,437 individuals with 258 being new.

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