



Perry County Food Bank
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*Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.*

Hymn "Come Ye Thankful People, Come." Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

November is the start of the holiday season in the United States. First up is Thanksgiving on the 28th of this month. A lot of us probably associate Thanksgiving with the Norman Rockwell painting from 1943 with three generations of the family happily gathered around the table decked out with all of the good china and silverware as grandma sets the turkey at the head of the table for grandpa to carve and distribute to those who have gathered. The title of Rockwell's painting is "Freedom from Want" and it was based on a speech that FDR delivered to Congress where he outlined Four Freedoms that he saw for Americans: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Worship, Freedom from Fear and Freedom from Want.

Many would believe that Christmas is the biggest family holiday in the United States but the reality and statistics show that Thanksgiving is the holiday that we see as most important to our families. It is the heaviest holiday for air traffic as well as train and automobile travel. People of all faiths and religions see the need to gather together and give thanks for what they have had during the previous year. Our mothers used to say "there is always something to give thanks for." That is always true. Rockwell's painting was done in the middle of World War II when many tables in America had empty spots around them on that Thanksgiving Day because of a war that was raging half-a-world away.

God has blessed many of us so greatly that we are able to share what we have been given with others to help them find "Freedom from Want" in even a small way. We have many customers who come in and are so thankful for what they receive that they thank our volunteers over and over. We have also experienced people who are in tears of joy for what you have helped to provide.

It is times like this that relate to the old hymn that we, as thankful people, come and acknowledge that "God our Maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied." Certainly that is how we feel here at the food bank each month. Our needs, and frequently our wants, are supplied to us so that we may reach out and share with others so that they may at least have a sense of food security in their lives.

We are reminded of Henry Parsons Crowell, an American businessman, founder of Quaker Oats, and a devoted Christian. Mr. Crowell was a great philanthropist and supporter of many causes. The more money that he made, the more he gave away. When asked about this, Henry replied that God shoveled the money in and he shoveled it out — the difference was that God had a bigger shovel! God has blessed our food bank in such a way that we see the wisdom of Mr. Crowell — the more God shovels in to us, the more we can shovel out to the needy in our county helping to give them a certain measure of "Freedom from Want."

Thank you for sharing your blessings to make all of this possible with those who are in want.

For the month of October, we served 1,117 families (24 more than September) and 2,783 individuals (73 more than September). The next two months, November and December, are our busiest months as people prepare for the holidays with their friends and families.

John Kiner & Mary Ann Brownawell, Directors