



## Perry County Food Bank

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*“The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.”* Albert Schweitzer

As we write this letter, we have had our first frost of the year. That is the end of the growing season for most gardens in the county and soon our donations from those gardens will be gone. Even the hens that have been giving a bumper crop of eggs, some of which have been finding their way into the Food Bank, have been slowing down as the days get shorter and cooler. It's one of the reasons that we all love to live in Pennsylvania. The seasons change and we get to experience something new every three months or so. Now it is the end of summer and the transition season of autumn before the cold and stark beauty of winter.

October is the start of Thanksgiving for us at the Food Bank. For our clients, who are allowed to shop once a month here at the New Bloomfield facility, preparation for Thanksgiving will be during their shopping trip in November. We must be ready to meet those needs beginning on that very first day of November. We have already ordered in the necessary non-perishable items for their Thanksgiving dinners and will start packing bags with those items during this month. We will need to have our turkeys lined up and ready to go beginning on that first day as well.

We frequently get calls from individuals and churches as to what we need that they can supply. Since we have already lined up the corn, green beans, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, and cranberry sauce, we look to other items to include in that meal. If you are thinking of turkeys, we can definitely use them. We would suggest smaller turkeys in the 12 to 15 pound range; two 12 pound turkeys will feed two families where a 24 pound turkey does only one. If supermarkets are giving free turkeys or certificates for them as rewards this year, we can certainly use those.

The other items that we need are cake and/or brownie mixes. We would like to be able to include a dessert item with the rest of the meal and cakes and brownies are quicker and easier than pumpkin pies. Since we will be purchasing turkeys at the end of October and straight through to Thanksgiving, cash donations to help pay for the hundreds of turkeys that we will need would be greatly appreciated as well. Because we need to purchase our turkeys early in the season, we generally need to pay full price. A week before Thanksgiving the prices drop, and that will be good for getting Christmas turkeys, but does us no good for Thanksgiving.

In the month of September, we served 1,165 households with 99 of those being new and 2,845 individuals with 293 being new. In the month of August, our numbers were 1,167 households with 162 considered new and 2,799 individuals with 437 being new.

As we go into October, be sure to take the time to look around and appreciate the fantastic colors and beauty that surround us in Perry County as the “circus that is autumn” arrives. People travel hundreds, even thousands, of miles to see what we will have available to us each day.

Thank you for your support and for your concern and care for others. We appreciate, so much, the opportunity that you have afforded us to act on your behalf as we serve our neighbors in need in Perry County.

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