



Perry County Food Bank

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The real cause of hunger is the powerlessness of the poor to gain access to the resources they need to feed themselves. — Frances Moore Lappe

September is Hunger Action Month and the color associated with it is orange. You may see orange at various places throughout the month. We will be using splashes of it on our FaceBook and Website pages as well as in the facility in New Bloomfield. We would encourage you to wear orange sometime during the month. Break out the orange hunting wear and join in spreading the word when people ask, “What in the world are you doing wearing that?” Remind them that there are people who are hungry and could use our help.

Hunger cuts across all ages and income levels. You can be doing well and then all of a sudden you are without a job and income. As we write this, Texas is under water. Who can even conceive of more than 50 inches of rain — all at once? In Houston, people will be without homes, food, jobs, and services for a very long time. The one thing that we all know about life is that it can be very unpredictable. Frank Sinatra sang a song, “That’s Life” that carried the lines, “That’s life... You’re riding high in April then shot down in May,” and we all know that things can change just that quickly. It can, and has, happened to perhaps one of our family members, a friend, a neighbor, children, adults, seniors, even ourselves.

We see this downturn in circumstance at the Food Bank. We see it in our schools. We see it here in New Bloomfield. We see it at our distribution sites around the county. We see it in our churches. We can see it everywhere if we look really hard for it because people who are in that position are very good at hiding it. We would pray that we could wipe out hunger in our lifetime, but a very wise man 2,000 years ago told us that we will have the poor and hungry with us —always. They are there for us — to notice, to advocate for, and to help. They are there to remind us how fortunate we are and how important it is to love our neighbors and to help where we can, even in a very small way.

In the month of July, we served 1,124 households and 2,660 individuals. All households and individuals were new in July. In the month of August, our numbers were 1,167 households with 162 considered new and 2,799 individuals with 437 being new.

September has arrived and with it the “unofficial” end to Summer on Labor Day. (It’s true that fall doesn’t officially begin until September 22 this year). The kids are back in school and the last two weeks of August gave us a hint of fall with cooler temperatures and low humidity. We are already preparing for Thanksgiving as we had a delivery of 90 turkeys this morning. It will be here before we know it. Remember the hungry this month and remember Texas. The next time it could be us.

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