



**Perry County Food Bank**  
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September, 2019

*“You have the power to turn this tearful world into a cheerful one. The question is, will you?”* — Abhijit Naskar, neuroscientist/author

September is Hunger Action Month in the United States. It’s a time when people come together to take action to fight hunger in our communities. It is an opportunity to join a movement that has a real and lasting impact on our effort to feed more hungry people in Perry County and the world. You can get involved by helping to raise awareness that we do, in fact, have hungry people here in Perry County and that we do have programs in place, like Bread of Life Outreach in Newport, the Perry County Food Bank in New Bloomfield and our BackPack program, to reach out and help these people in need of food.

You can also help by making donations to any of the above organizations or to your local church’s outreach to feed the poor in their communities and around the nation and the world. Some may ask, “Why do we have hungry people in the world.” Surprisingly there are many reasons for it. Locally here in Perry County the reasons are varied.

At the Food Bank we get a lot of customers who come in and sign up because they have just lost their job — for whatever reason — and are in desperate need of help to feed their families. We stand ready to help with food and in any other way that we can to help these people as they face and work through their current crisis.

We have a lot of single parents, mostly women, who struggle to juggle low-paying jobs with feeding and taking care of their their kids. Most of these situations are heartbreaking. Things are going along and the family is making a go of it when one person, who is usually the bread-winner, decides to move on and leave the other high-and-dry with a house full of kids and no support. Again, the Food Bank is ready to help with food and other assistance for as long as it takes until things stabilize.

We also see the working poor. These are frequently people and families who can only find low-paying jobs because they lack the skills and education required for better paying jobs. In many of these cases, they will probably never be able to acquire the skills for those higher paying jobs for any number of reasons. For some of these people, the Food Bank is an essential link in being able to care for themselves and their families.

Another large group that we see are the senior citizens. Many of these are people who go into retirement with what, at the time, seemed like a good retirement payment but as time went on, inflation, rising costs and rising property taxes have eaten it up and it is now inadequate. Some even try to live on Social Security alone.

We see the homeless who have lost their homes, many times through no fault of their own, and are now living in their cars under bridges or on back forest roads. Perhaps they are lucky enough to be able to tent in one of the campgrounds or in the back yard of a friend or family member. Friends will sometimes let them sleep temporarily on the floor of their basements. It’s not much but it is out of the weather.

For these reasons and more the hungry are among us. What is especially troubling is that, in many cases, we could find ourselves in the same situations. The hungry people that we see look just like you and me. With the right circumstances it could be us.

In August, our numbers were 1,044 households with 163 considered new and 2,576 individuals with 474 being new. In July we served 996 households with 788 of them being new and 2,356 individuals with 1,896 being new. In July we purge all of our files and everyone is counted as new until the end of the month when some may have been in twice.

As always, we sincerely thank you for your care, concern and support.

John Kiner & Mary Ann Brownawell, Directors