



Perry County Food Bank
P.O. Box 37, 298 South Carlisle Street
New Bloomfield, PA 17068
Phone: 717-582-9978 • Fax: 717-582-9979
E-mail: pcfoodbank@perryco.org
Like us at [FaceBook.com/perrycountyfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/perrycountyfoodbank)
On the Web at perrycountyfoodbank.org

July, 2019

"Humanity has won its battle. Liberty now has a country." --Marquis de Lafayette

Young, nineteen-year-old Lafayette was passionate about liberty for all peoples. Coming from a wealthy family and having no desire for court life in France, he bought a ship and sailed for America where the colonists were fighting for liberty and their independence from Great Britain. Declaring that "the welfare of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind," he joined the young American army and served without pay. Lafayette served throughout the war, including the brutal winter at Valley Forge, and was helpful in getting France to support the colonists and ultimately send troops, ships, and arms which turned the tide in America's favor.

In July we celebrate the fight of our young nation for liberty and freedom. Thomas Jefferson penned the words "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," in the Declaration of Independence. That's what we were fighting for and dying for in the 1770s. We hope that you have taken time to pause and remember that this country wasn't always free and that freedom, as always, isn't free – it comes with a price that was paid in blood. It's blood that won it and blood that has kept it for nearly 250 years. So, celebrate, cherish and hold dear the liberty and freedom that we enjoy and thank the men and women who serve and have served to preserve our way of life.

As Americans, most of us are fiercely independent. It's that spirit that brought our ancestors to this country in the first place and it's that spirit that moved them across the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Those early pioneers prided themselves in being able to "do it themselves" – whether building a home or taming the wild country that they found themselves moving into. That spirit, that spark, is found in many of us today.

However, it doesn't take much to rob us of that freedom – that independence that we so cherish. An unexpected illness, disease, or injury can rob us of our health and our ability to work and earn a living. The sudden downsizing or closing of our company can land us on the street in a few short months once the money has run out and the banks and finance companies catch up to us. Hopefully, for most of us, these are short-term problems that we can bounce back from and we just need a little help until we are "back on our feet" again. The food bank stands ready to help smooth out these rough spots until we can get things moving again.

For some of us, though, bouncing back may take a very long time or it may never happen. The illness or injury may be chronic or catastrophic or it may be complicated by age which keeps us down and refuses to let us get up, no matter how hard we try. We desire to be independent, we try for it, but it eludes us and, frustrating as it is, we become dependent on others to do the things that we used to take care of ourselves. We know that walking through our door for the first time is the hardest thing that many people will ever do because they must admit that they cannot do it themselves and they need help. Our volunteers are all very aware of this and work to make the experience as nonthreatening, and actually pleasant, as possible. They can do this because many of them have found themselves in similar situations at one time or another and they can relate.

In June, our numbers were 984 households with 29 considered new and 2,294 individuals with 76 being new. In May we served 1,055 households with 27 of them being new and 2,503 individuals with 69 being new.

John Kiner & Mary Ann Brownawell