



Perry County Food Bank
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“May you always have: A world of wishes at your command. God and his angels close to hand. Friends and family their love impart, and Irish blessings in your heart.” —An Irish Blessing

We say hello to you with a traditional Irish greeting as we begin the month of March — “Dia duit” which literally means “May God be with you”. What better way to start a day or month than with God going along? February is finished — finally. It is the shortest month and yet can seem like the longest. It started out looking like spring but quickly reverted to winter, complete with snow, sleet, freezing rain, high winds and even a polar vortex for good measure. Many of those foul weather days fell on days that we were to be open and kept some of our customers home, not willing to venture out. We even closed on Wednesday the 20th because of snow.

There were some bright spots in the month! Super Bowl Sunday saw many churches hold “Souper Bowl Sundays” where they collected soup for the Food Bank. We are happy to report that we were inundated with hundreds and hundreds of cans of soup during the week following the game. It comes at a perfect time to have this event as it is the middle of winter and soup is a perfect meal for those cold winter days. We also had organizations, individuals, and groups who have been doing food drives for us in February and March. Many do drives during the holidays but those donation drives taper off after December. We are so grateful for those who have been doing drives in the “off” months for us.

We are also grateful for those who have purchased eggs for us. Karns has had extra-large eggs for \$1 a dozen a couple of times this month. That is cheaper than we can purchase them so several people have been buying eggs for us. It is an item that almost everyone takes when they come in to shop. We are thankful for Karns and for those who saw an opportunity to help in a special way.

As we leave February behind, we look forward to the transition month of March which shifts the gears between the winter months of December, January, and February and moves into the spring months April and May. Already the signs are around us with hyacinths, crocus, and daffodils beginning to peek through the snow in flower beds. The days are longer now and with more sunshine and less frigid temperatures our heating budgets begin to get a break freeing up money to be used for other things like food and catching up on bills that have accumulated.

As we get into spring, we will again be encouraging our customers to consider growing some of their own food. We will have garden seeds and plants available at appropriate times as we move through spring and are hopeful that our demonstration garden will be available to show how to grow things — even in very limited spaces. This has been a popular program in past years and we believe it will be so again.

In February, our numbers were 1,047 households with 28 considered new and 2,689 individuals with 126 being new. In January we served 1,081 households with 44 of them being new and 2,478 individuals with 63 being new.

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