



## Perry County Food Bank

300A South Carlisle Street  
New Bloomfield, PA 17068  
Phone: 717-582-9978 • Fax: 717-582-9979  
E-mail: [pcfoodbank@perryco.org](mailto:pcfoodbank@perryco.org)  
Website: [www.perrycountyfoodbank.org](http://www.perrycountyfoodbank.org)  
Like us at [FaceBook.com/perrycountyfoodbank](https://www.facebook.com/perrycountyfoodbank)



May 2018

*"It's a funny thing about life, once you begin to take note of the things you are grateful for, you begin to lose sight of the things that you lack." — Germany Kent*

We are frequently asked, "Who uses the food bank," or, "what types of people use the food bank?" We serve those people in Perry County who are food-insecure. Food insecure people are those who do not have enough affordable, nutritious food available to them. Food insecure people do not have to be insecure at all times. Many of the people that we see coming into the food bank are food insecure for a limited time. In many of these cases, the insecurity comes from unexpected circumstances—frequently the sudden loss of a job. In these cases, people need help long enough to get them back on their feet and then they stop coming in for food.

Food insecurity can come to people who have suddenly lost their homes and find they are instantly homeless. In April, several families lost their homes to fire. Within four hours one day, we had two families who lost their homes to trees which fell on their trailers during the wind storms we experienced. In both cases the trees fell in the center of the trailer and destroyed it completely.

One family was forced out of their home because they were living with an elderly parent who owned the home. Because of the parent's health issues, other family members, with the blessing of health care workers, recommended that the parent be placed in a nursing home. With the parent gone, the home would be used for collateral by the nursing home and our clients were forced out onto the street. With their homes suddenly gone, housing becomes a primary issue and so does food for a family. We are prepared to step in and help to insure that there is food available during these traumatic times so that families can focus on finding housing and getting the family back to normal.

Food insecurity comes to many seniors who can no longer work. April was the month to recertify seniors for the federal Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides a pre-packaged box of food to qualifying seniors who are 60 or older and meet the federal guidelines. If they qualify for this "Senior Box", they also qualify to use the food bank. It is amazing the number of people who are trying to live on a Social Security payment of \$700, \$800, or even as low as \$400 a month. Until they pay their rent, utilities, and heat there is very little left for other expenses. Most make sure that they have enough money left for gas and a once-a-month trip to the food bank and grocery store to pick up food for the month.

These are just some of the people that we see coming through our doors seeking help. Thank you for helping to meet the needs of these and many others.

In the month of April, our numbers were 1,169 households with 33 considered new and 2,758 individuals with 77 being new and in March we served 1,176 households with 20 of them being new and 2,756 individuals and 46 were new.

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