

CHARLESTON AREA CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

"for I was hungry and You gave me food; I was thirsty and You gave me drink; I was a stranger and You took me in." Matthew 25:35
Hours M-W-F 1:30-4:00 & Th 5:30-7:00



JANUARY 2024/2023 YEAR END

PANTRY NEWS

The pantry is doing well as we start another new year of serving the food insecure in Coles County. Established volunteers remain faithful in their service, along with many new volunteers who are excited to begin serving.

The pantry purchased a new van with a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. The old van was traded in with this deal. The new van is a heavier model and can haul larger amounts of food.

Todd still goes to Bloomington once a month to obtain food, and the Eastern Illinois Food Bank continues to donate generously to the pantry along with the USDA donations

The pantry still receives donations from WalMart and Ruler Foods through Feeding America. Food donations from other sources have been lower the past few years, but we realize this is due to the current economy.

The number of clients served has increased greatly as the numbers below will show. The SNAP program amounts decreased in March 2023, so people are struggling with grocery prices.

Overall, the amount of donations of food and money has decreased, while the cost to purchase food has increased. The expenses for the pantry have increased in the area of rent since there is more space and computer equipment/internet cost.

As of now the pantry is able to provide services, and continues to work to be good stewards of the funds we receive.

THANKS

There were many monetary donations in the month of December, which is usually a big donor month. As always, the pantry is grateful to any and all donations given no matter the amount.

2023 STATISTICS

The number of people served in 2023 increased greatly, with new clients coming in weekly.

NUMBER SERVED: Households: 4,782, this is 2,000 more than 2022

Individuals: 4,586 Meals: 131,274

DONATED FOOD (in pounds)

Ruler Foods: 15,059 WalMart: 96,278
USDA: 73,569 Eastern IL Foodbank: 26,102
Other: 4,605.

TOTAL FOOD DONATED: 215,613 lbs

The pantry keeps track of Ruler and Walmart donations because those are given through *Feeding America*. The USDA and Eastern Illinois Foodbank donations are recorded monthly. The other amounts are mostly donations we are able to weigh as they come in.

However, there is a large amount of food that is just dropped off. Todd, the pantry Director, estimates the amount not weighed is probably equal to the amount that is recorded. It is amazing how much food comes and goes through the pantry doors! And all of it is greatly appreciated!

INCOME

The income we receive is totally from donations and grants. 67% of donations came from individuals, and 33% from grants, churches, agencies, organization, and businesses.

The numbers listed in parenthesis below are the changes from FY 2022.

TOTAL INCOME: \$101,001.56 (down 13%)

EXPENSES

FOOD - \$86,269.43 (up 69%)

NON-FOOD - \$12,350.52 (up 32%)

Non food items are personal hygiene items given to the clients. We have decreased what is given so we can use more money for food. We give out mainly toilet paper and sanitary pads.

OTHER EXPENSES

OPERATIONS/RENT: \$17,603.51 (up 87%)

VEHICLE EXPENSE: \$2,255.00 (down 55%)

SUPPLIES: \$577.24 (down 45%)

Auto insurance decreased also as the pantry changed agencies for lower cost coverage.

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$119,055.46

Expenses were \$18,053.90 more than income.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2023!

