

# Quarterly Newsletter

PICKERINGTON FOOD PANTRY



QUARTER 1 2026



## Good News From The Pantry + What's Ahead:

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission of *Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope*.

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our donors and volunteers who have continued to support us. Your generosity and dedication have allowed us to keep our programs running smoothly and effectively.

This first quarter of the year started off strong with the launch of our *2026 Business Partnership Program* with Oasis Facebar Pickerington being the first business to participate!

The Food Pantry participated in a 'Micro Give Friday' on March 27<sup>th</sup> and successfully raised \$726. Thank you to those who donated and helped us to spread the word! We also launched our *Amazon Wishlist* to simplify the donation process.

March 29<sup>th</sup> kicked off Meijer's *Simply Give* program and runs through June 27<sup>th</sup>. During each *Simply Give* campaign, customers are encouraged to purchase a \$10 *Simply Give* donation card upon checkout. Once purchased, the donation is converted into a Meijer Food-Only Gift Card and donated directly to the Pickerington Food Pantry. **Double Match Day is June 20<sup>th</sup>** where Meijer will provide \$20 for every \$10 *Simply Give* card purchased.

Finally, we want to remind everyone that our pantry relies on the kindness and support of our community. If you are able to donate your time or resources, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your continued support!

Enjoy this quarters newsletter!

*Kaylie Fellers*  
Executive Director

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## Q1: PANTRY STATS & DONATIONS

Through your generous donations and support, the Pickerington Food Pantry was able to provide **41,346 meals to 2,617 people** from January 1- March 31 2026

### DONATIONS

From food drives to drop ins, the Pickerington community donated 8,184 lbs of food and toiletries from January 1<sup>st</sup> - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2026. The Pickerington Food Pantry also received 23,425 lbs of donated food items from local grocery stores.

A big THANK YOU to our donors who make this possible!

### Upcoming Pantry Closures:

- May 23rd
- June 19th
- July 4th



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## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



**SANDY MCLONEY**

Sandy has been volunteering at the Food Pantry since she retired from teaching in 2011. She started her volunteering journey with the Pantry by delivering donations from her church and wanted to get more involved, and so began volunteering once a month- which quickly turned in to any Thursday or Saturday she's in town!

Her favorite part of volunteering is the people, stating "The volunteers are friendly and enjoy helping others. The clients are most appreciative and I enjoy getting to know and helping them."

She also says "I think other people would be surprised at how many families we help during the Thursday and Saturday time slots."

Sandy continued "Throughout the years that I have helped at the pantry, I continue to be proud of the Pickerington Community for all the donations and generosity in providing our clients with this extra help for their families. Thank you Pickerington."

Thank you, Sandy, for your many years of dedication and service volunteering for the Food Pantry!



**TODD KIRK**

Todd has been a regular volunteer with the Pantry on Saturdays.

Todd's advice for someone looking to volunteer at the Pantry: "Treat everyone with kindness and respect and help create a welcoming environment. People visiting the food pantry come from many different situations and may simply be going through a temporary challenge. A friendly, respectful attitude can make the experience more positive for everyone." His favorite part of being a volunteer is being able to help in a small way. He says it's rewarding to know that his time is making someone's day a little easier.

We asked Todd what a shift at the Pantry looks like:

"A typical shift usually involves helping sort and organize donated food, stocking shelves, and assisting with distribution when people come through. There's always something that needs done, whether it's breaking down boxes, getting carts back inside, or flattening donated shopping bags so they can be reused. It's a good mix of staying busy and working with a great group of volunteers."

When asked what people may misunderstand about Food Pantries, Todd said:

"I think some people misunderstand how many ordinary families rely on food pantries from time to time. It's not always long-term hardship—sometimes people just need a little help getting through a difficult stretch. Food pantries help fill that gap for the community."

Thank you, Todd, for being such a wonderful volunteer!

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## RECIPES:

### **'Rustic Bread Salad'**

*Submitted by Volunteer Janet Reale*

**Ingredients:**

½ lb. day old Italian bread cut into chunks  
¾ red onion, thinly sliced, cut in half  
¾ cup Italian dressing  
½ cup Parmesan cheese  
1/3 cup pitted black olives, cut in half

**Directions:**

Toss ingredients just before serving  
Serves 6 to 8

### **'Chicken Casserole'**

*Submitted by Executive Director Kaylie Fellers*

**Ingredients:**

1 lb chicken breast or tenderloins  
1 can cream of mushroom  
1 can cream of celery  
1 box stuffing mix

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 375\*  
Boil chicken until cooked, season water with desired seasonings.  
Remove chicken from water and shred.  
Set aside the water the chicken was boiled in.  
In a baking dish, layer the two soups.  
Add the stuffing mix on top.  
Add the shredded chicken.  
Pour the boiled water over the mixture to make it moist.  
Bake for 40-45 minutes.  
Let rest for 10 minutes, then serve.

### **'Potato Tomato Soup'**

*Submitted by Volunteer Janet Reale*

**Ingredients:**


2 carrots, diced  
1 onion, thinly sliced  
2 ribs celery, diced  
1 TBS butter  
1 can (16 oz) tomato sauce  
2 cans (10 Oz each) chicken or beef or vegetable broth  
3 soup cans of water  
4 large russet potatoes, peeled and quartered  
Salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:**

Place diced vegetables in 4-quart pot with butter. Sauté vegetables until onions are caramelized. Add tomato sauce, broth and water. Bring just to boiling. Add potatoes, salt and pepper. Reduce heat – simmer for about 30 minutes until potatoes are fork tender. With a fork or potato masher, mash most of the potatoes, leaving some chunks in the soup. Serve sprinkled with cheddar cheese and/or some sour cream.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



Presented by the  
  
 and the Fairfield and Violet  
 Elementary Music Clubs

When: Saturday, April 18, 2026; 3:00 pm

Where: Epiphany Lutheran Church  
 268 Hill Rd. North, Pickerington

Including: A special presentation from the  
 Pickerington Food Pantry

Bring: Donations for the Food Pantry



Concert Admission is Free | Donations to PCC Accepted

May is National 'Older Americans Month', a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of older adults in our community. In appreciation of our senior clients, we will be distributing special baskets filled with food items thoughtfully selected to meet their needs throughout the month of May.



Gilded Social Bridal Shop is hosting a Food Drive the month of April for the Pantry.



We need volunteers! Join us July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Picktown Palooza entry gates. For Volunteer Sign-Ups, email [info@pickpantry.com](mailto:info@pickpantry.com)



**CRUNCH FOR A CAUSE**  
 Students at Tollgate Middle School will be hosting a cereal drive. The class that collects the most boxes of cereal will participate in a sporting event against local first responders in May

*Thank you for your support!*

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## FIGHTING FOOD INSECURITY

- Food insecurity remains at high levels, making programs like Meijer Simply Give even more important.
- Current economic conditions are placing increased pressures on low-income families.
- In fact, more than **47.4M\***

Americans are considered food insecure.



## OUR PURPOSE

- Meijer is committed to feeding families by stocking the shelves of food pantries across the Midwest through its Simply Give program.
- For the past **18 YEARS**,  
  
the Simply Give program has fed hungry families in the communities Meijer serves.
- Hunger relief continues to be a primary focus at Meijer.



## SUPPORTING LOCAL PANTRIES

- Each of the more than **270** Meijer stores across the Midwest partner with multiple local food pantries, keeping the money within the community.
- Customers are encouraged to add a \$10 Simply Give donation card to their cart, which is converted into a Meijer food-only gift card and given to the food pantry selected by the individual store.
- The Simply Give program allows food pantries the opportunity to choose the grocery or baby items (diapers, wipes, formula, baby food) best suited for the families they serve.



## CONTINUED IMPACT

- Since 2008, Simply Give has generated more than **\$100M** for local food equivalent to more than 930 million meals\*\*.
- The 2025 Spring Simply Give campaign generated more than \$3.3 million for partnering food pantries to feed hungry families.

\*SOURCE: U.S. Department of Agriculture report, Food Security in the U.S. in 2023

\*\*Meal calculation ratio is \$.25 per meal. Calculation is based on the approximate average cost of a meal from select food pantry partners across the Meijer footprint.