

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



APRIL 2026

On March 12th the pantry had a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate becoming the sole owner of the building we operate out of. The Charleston Chamber of Commerce was there to help with the festivities. After cutting the ribbon, those present enjoyed a picnic lunch of hotdogs, baked beans, chips and cookies. Do to the chilly weather (coats were worn to cut the ribbon) it was an indoor picnic! Thank you to Scott and Jan Stevens for cooking and setting up for the picnic.

Now that the pantry does own the building there is extra office space that needs an occupant. If any business or organization is in need of a new, or extra space, please contact Todd Foster, pantry director for information.

Coalition for People in Need will continue to rent their space to serve Charleston residents.

THANK YOU

A very special donation was made to the pantry earlier this year. The family of Mike and Gail Clayton, who were tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident last fall, notified the pantry that these two generous people wanted to leave a donation upon their passing to the

pantry. This is such a wonderful way to leave a legacy of love after a tragic situation. Thank you Mike and Gail, may you rest in peace.

As always, all donations of any amount are helpful and greatly appreciated!

MARCH 2026 NUMBERS

Customers Served: Households: 403

Individuals: 1,202 Meals: 10,818

Donated food in pounds: USDA: 4,600

Eastern IL Foodbank: 9,913

Ruler Foods: 1,649 Walmart: 6,743

FUN FOOD and APRIL FACTS

Even though spring is here it feels like winter on some days. April is always up and down with the weather, but, it is a good month to start planting a garden!

Below are plants that can be put into the earth in April:

- Radishes, lettuces, kale, spinach, beets, broccoli, green onions, sweet peas, and honeydew.
- If you happened to start plants by seed earlier in the year, now is the time to plant them outside.
- April is the Latin word for *aperit*, meaning to “open/bud” since plants begin to grow this month.
- Sweet peas and daisies are the flowers of April.
- Diamond is the April birthstone.
- Earth Day is always celebrated on April 22nd.

HAPPY SPRING TO ALL!!!