

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



FEBRUARY 2021

PANTRY NEWS

January at the pantry was not as busy as some months, but every guest served was deeply appreciative of the amount of food given. The pantry continues to be blessed with generous donations from the community, individuals, churches, and businesses. In fact, 82% of the income the pantry received in 2020 was from these areas. The pantry does receive grants from the Coles County United Way, FEMA, and other businesses, such as Ameren Electric.

Another interesting statistic is that 70% of the income the pantry received in 2020 was used to purchase food, and essential non-food items for distribution to our guest. The remaining 30% is for rent, utilities, office and cleaning supplies, and van fuel and maintenance.

Speaking of the van, it is used at least 3-4 days a week to pick up donated food from WalMart and Ruler Food, plus a monthly trip to Bloomington for free food donations. We are currently having problems with some type of creature chewing on the wiring in the van, causing extra expense for repairs. This is another reason the addition to building will be a good thing, as the van can be parked inside. Also, unloading the van inside will be much better for the volunteers who pick up donations.

And, speaking of volunteers, they deserve a BIG thank you. As a reminder, the director, assistant director, and worker bees at the pantry are all volunteer. One volunteer even does the cleaning, which saves the pantry an expense. The volunteers who do the food donation pick up do a really big job with hundreds of pounds given on a regular basis.

All of these people, which is 28 to date, are rewarded by knowing that the giving of their time and energy enables the pantry to use our resources for food.

THANKS

Many thanks go to the Ameren Corporation Charitable Trust for the monetary donation to the pantry, along with led bulbs to distribute to our guest.

The Coles County Barbershoppers usually donate proceeds from their annual Holiday Concert to area food pantries. However, they were unable to have the concert in December due to the pandemic. With this being the case, their members made generous donations on their own. Thank you very much!

The pantry received donations in January in the memory of Bob Inyart and Joyce Stratton. May God give comfort to the loved ones of these people

JANUARY 2021 NUMBERS

Families: 195 Individuals: 663

Meals: 5,967

Food donation in pounds:

USDA: 6,713 Eastern IL Food-bank: 960

WalMart: 5,340 Ruler Food: 1,192

With God's grace we pray for an end to this pandemic and a return to a more normal life during 2021!