

We are so glad you came to Tin Shed today. We hope that the box you receive, has just what you need. We really miss being able to let people shop for the food they like. During times like this we are just pleased that we can still share food with the community. The question we are asked most is, why did that car get three boxes and I only received one? Why do some people pull up and different items are brought to their car? I am sure it looks very odd from the perspective of your window. Our goal is to give each person a portion, according to what they need for the week. We have small boxes for 2-3 people, large boxes for 4-6 people, or bags for those who can not cook. So when we start our week, we ask God to provide exactly what we need, and then we start putting out the boxes. (the amount changes weekly and we normally go with a gut feeling.) The content of the box changes and evolves, as each volunteer starts placing the food in it. Our job is to get all the food together and then give it to you. We try to be thoughtful as we're packing each box.

The next part is your job. When you pull up, you are asked "how many in your family or how many people are you feeding". Sometimes there are two families of 2 in a car. That equals 2 small boxes. The next car may have two generations in the house, or 8 people. They would receive 1 large and 1 small box. The next car may be a person who doesn't need food for themselves, but are picking up for three families who don't have a vehicle but still need food. One family has 5 kids, the other has 1 child, and the last is the retired couple from across the street. They'd get 1 large box and 2 small. The point is, the more we know about you the better we can serve you. You may have special needs like baby food, gluten free or dairy free foods. This is why some people receive a few extra items. If you don't need them, you may end up just putting those things into the trash. We hope that people ask for and take exactly what they need. The irony of the situation is similar to a Bible account of Israel in Exodus 16.

Israel was held captive as slaves and God delivered them from their oppressor. It is estimated that that there could have been more than 2 million people brought from slavery to freedom in the desert. In their liberation, it did not take long for their stomachs to realize that when they were slaves, they were feed. They complained, "now we are going to die". God answered their grumbling by raining food down from heaven. So in the morning the ground was covered by manna and quail. What is manna? The word Manna actually translates "what is it". You have no idea how many times we open a box at the food bank and say the same "what is it"? Here is the kicker- the instruction through Moses was that each person take as much as they can eat. And they were not to leave any until morning. (trust that there will be more!)

Exodus 16:20

20 "But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it until morning, and it bred worms and stank"

I can not count the times we held food back just in case there wasn't going to be more next week. The amount of food that "stank" and had to be thrown out was a lot! In the early days of this ministry, we held back about 100 hams in a freezer. This was at our first location on Floyd Hill. That year we had late spring storms and our freezer lost power. When the snow melted and we got back up there, we had quite a stinky situation. There is no way we can save that which God provides!

We hope that your box measures exactly what you need. Please let us know if you have any special need items, they may already be in the building waiting for you.