

## CHARLESTON AREA CHURCHES

### FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

"for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and 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



AUGUST 2017

### PANTRY NEWS

The pantry has been running very smoothly over the summer. There have been some new volunteers working, and they are very enthusiastic to serve the community.

Speaking of serving the community, every month the pantry sees new clients coming in for assistance. With the economy still not in the best of shape every bit helps. These new clients are people with various reasons for needing the help, from losing jobs, hours reduced, family changes, or just realizing they need some extra food for the month.

The pantry is so blessed to be able to have the food, supplies, and volunteers needed to serve this population.

### THANKS

The 2018 food pantry calendar is in the works, and the pantry wants to thank all the businesses and churches that donated sponsorship for the printing. We produce a very nice calendar, and it is in large part due to these donations that help keep cost down.

Many thanks go out to the local Master Gardeners who have started bringing in fresh produce. Donations are also being given by area folks who are not Master Gardeners, but just want to share in their harvest. The clients love getting a share of your plentiful bounty!

The pantry also wishes, as always, to thank the many churches which donate on a regular basis.

This is just another way the community supports our ministry. There are so many needs, and we appreciate the churches deciding to give to the pantry'

### JULY 2017 NUMBERS

Households - 480

Individuals - 1,653

Children > 18 years of age - 600

Meals - 13,077

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Hard to believe it is already August and kids are getting ready to go back to school. So here is a reminder to watch out for school buses, and kids walking and riding bikes to and from school.

This also is a time of extra expenses for some families due to buying school supplies, new clothes, and having to provide school lunches. Luckily there are some drives for school supply donations around the community which help very much. Sadly, the Civic Association, which donated shoes for children, has disbanded. This agency was ran for many, many years by Virginia Davis. However, due to her age and health issues she could no longer oversee the work. Thank you Virginia for your years of faithful service to Coles County.

Free and reduced school lunches help many families, as long as the children will eat what is offered! That seems to be an age old problem no matter what the income level of the families. There are also the weekend back pack programs in several schools, and both Charleston and Mattoon High Schools have food pantries in place. These pantries are supported through the Eastern Illinois Food Bank, and students are referred by school personnel. The high school pantries are operated very discreetly so students are not singled out, which helps decrease any embarrassment for the students.

*ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR SUMMER!*

