

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



JUNE 2018

PANTRY NEWS

The volunteers working the food pantry this past month were very busy most days as the numbers listed will show. Luckily, the pantry has been blessed with generous donations, and clients have left most days with carts overflowing!

May is always a busy month for the volunteers that work on the pantry calendar. The calendar is made for distribution in October, but May is the month when businesses and churches are asked for donations so their names can be listed on it. The community members listed are very supportive of this pantry fundraiser, and also very appreciated.

THANKS

A big thank you is to the Eastern Illinois Food Bank for their grant donation of \$1,000.00 for equipment. This money was used to purchase more shelving for storage (which seems to always be a necessity), and more carts for loading and moving filled boxes for client distribution. Being able to get grants for equipment helps the pantry save monetary donations for food purchases.

May is also the month when the United States Postal Service has their *Stamp Out Hunger* food collection drive. This year the Charleston postal carriers collected and delivered to the pantry 2,947 lbs of food,

and \$55.00. Thank you postal patrons for your generous donations.

EIU's spring semester ended with students donating just under 900 lbs of unused food. It is so good this food can be used and not just thrown away.

There were also generous donations made by two gentleman through Fidelity Charitable as part of the Slough Charitable Gift Fund.

Thank you to all donors, each and every one of you are so appreciated.

MAY 2018 NUMBERS

Families – 458
Individuals – 1,658
Meals – 14,922
Children Under 18 yr. - 632

FAST FACTS

Community Supported Agriculture

Community supported Agriculture (CSA) is a program in which people buy shares of farm production from farmers selling healthy, fresh produce. This is a great program for people who want to know, and see, where the food they are eating is grown.

Coles County is fortunate to have a CSA locally. First Fruits Homestead is a small fruit and vegetable farm located south of Charleston. First Fruits is owned and operated by Jerry and Lauren Callendrilla, and Owen and Jessica Sweitzer. They are very active in the community, participating at both the Charleston and Mattoon farmer markets, and donating produce to area food pantries.

An added bonus for the food pantry is that these farmers pick up any food the pantry can not distribute to feed their hogs, or use for compost, this helps us both out!

You can get more information on them at firstfruitshomestead.org, and on Facebook.

