



**THE ANNUAL GATHERING AND REPORT
FOR THE PERRY AREA EMERGENCY FOOD COUNCIL
January 12, 2025
Report of the Food Pantry Site Manager**

Donor Partners, Volunteers, Board of Directors, and Friends,

This is our 3rd Annual Report since relocating the Perry Area Food Pantry to its present location. We remain so grateful for the location made available to us by the Rev. Max Phillips and the Lutheran Home Board of Directors in a 10-Year rent-free lease.

We never lose sight of the fact that the heart of our mission is to provide healthy, nutritious food and personal hygiene items to our customers who are experiencing need due to unemployment, layoffs due to health issues or worksite changes, family crises, or financial crises, temporary or chronic.

We continue to serve customers whose primary language is English or Spanish, however we have continued to have a significant number of Haitian immigrants who speak primarily French Creole. We see many fewer of the customers from the various African countries, and the number of Eritreans has reduced greatly. Fortunately, Tyson interpreters provided me with some translation pages for the Haitians, but they are not always helpful due to illiteracy or dialects. There often is someone in their group who is able to translate. One great advantage is being able to show all our customers our products and let them select the items they choose.

Through increased Personal Donations, Business & Corporate Gifts, Churches, and Grants, we were able to continue our same level of support to our customer households, including in addition to food, Farmers Market Dollars, Holiday Dollars and Personal Hygiene items such as toilet tissue, toothpaste & brushes, bars of soap, feminine hygiene items, diapers, and wipes. We had an especially large grant offered to us by the First Interstate Bank Foundation of \$25,000. We have several other companies and groups reach out to us for the first time with special gifts due to their appreciation of the community loss from the closing of the Tyson Pork Plant and the layoff of around 1,400 employees.

We cannot say enough about how valuable our Website and Facebook page have been, based on the numbers of responses. I believe it has helped build a relationship between the Pantry and the community, creating more vested interest and building our donor base. Our Website is: www.perryfoodpantry.org. We thank Larry Vodenik for managing these outreach efforts.

As our numbers will show, we served 104 more households this year over 2023. More than mere numbers, this shows that our Mission is expanding and reaching more persons with greater needs.

I am personally grateful for all the volunteers who will be recognized in our Volunteer Coordinator's report, but I want to especially thank Kathy Miner, who continues to serve as the **Office Assistant**. In addition, I wish to recognize and thank Connie Culbertson who accepted the new position as **Inventory Control Administrator** this past year. Connie does our weekly inventory, places orders for food commodities at Fareway, Hy-Vee and the Food Bank of Iowa. She then coordinates with our Coordinator of Commodity Acquisition to coordinate the pickup and delivery of those ordered items.

In 2025, I look forward to completing the Job Descriptions for the Site Manager Position and...

- We will continue to create more Specific Job and Process Descriptions to make any succession plans smoother.
- We will seek additional ethnic partners to help recruit more bi-lingual volunteers for better customer service and greater outreach.

❖ Outreach and Promotion:

- Advertise the Pantry in Laundromats, Laundry Rooms in Apartment Complexes, etc.
- Interviews on KDLS reporting our 2024-2025 Service
- Articles for the Perry Chief and the PerryNews.com
- Presentations to Perry's Civic Organizations
- Presentations in our churches.

I want to remind all of you how vital your contributions are to this service and how we seek to be good stewards of the funds you make available to us. We are 100% volunteer staffed, and we put our hearts into fulfilling our mission on behalf of you and all the people of the Perry Area School District area. *Sincerely, Lou Hoger, Site Manager*

➤ **In the last 4 years we served:**

- **2021:** 249 Different Households/859 Persons;
- **2022:** 376 Households/1,529 Persons
- **2023: 529 Diff. Households, 1.840 Individuals**
- **2024: 633 Diff. Households, 2,003 Individuals**

➤ **How often did families use the Food Pantry in 2024?**

1-3 times: 435 – 69%
4-6 times: 109 – 17%
7-9 times: 47 – 7%
10-12 times: 42 – 6%

- Donated Food/Hygiene Items – 5,000 Estimated Value = \$7,250
- Kwik Star Donations:
Bread/Bakery – 1,446 lbs., Meat – 766 lbs., Misc. – 505 lbs. = TOTAL 2,727 lbs.
- Hy-Vee Bread/Bakery – 2,528 lbs.
- The Food Bank of Iowa provided: –
2023 - 20,044 lbs. (10.2 Tons) for \$2,936
2024 - 34,185 lbs. (17.1 Tons) for \$5,024 (\$.14.6/lb.)
- Purchased from Retail Merchants – \$42,325
- Offered Farmers Market & Holiday Coupons - \$9,210; Redeemed \$5,605*
- Personal Hygiene Items Purchases - \$9,664
- Food & Personal Hygiene per Household in 2024: \$99.00; per Individual: \$31.00
- Total Pantry Expenses per Household: \$113.00; per Individual: \$36.00
- Personal and Organization Donations of Food & Personal Hygiene items greatly reduced our commodity costs!

Site Manager: Lou Hoger, Call or Text 515-570- 2975 prlhoger@gmail.com

2024 Perry Area Emergency Food Council Board Members:

Tim Farmer, President	Steve Golay	Gus Henrici*
Sarah Cerwinske, Secretary	Brenda Golay	Pat McPhearson
Carol Johnson, Treasurer	Rosa Gonzalez	Kimberly Belken
Margaret Harden	Jeffry Fuentes	

*Gus has resigned from the Board of Directors due to the termination of his employment as Chaplain at the Tyson Pork Plant.