

**BATESVILLE AREA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION FOOD
PANTRY
EIN 27-0950349**



December, 2013

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of another year! It was certainly a busy year at the food pantry. We're averaging around 200 households per month, but a lot of them are clients that are new to us this year. This means, of course, that some families that we had been serving have stopped coming in, and we certainly wish them the best in their, hopefully, improved conditions.

As the pantry was closed the day before Thanksgiving, we only saw three weeks of active service in November, making each of those weeks noticeably busier than usual. The same is true of December, as the fourth Wednesday is Christmas day. These months have been busier than usual, but on the other hand, we can't remember the last time we experienced so much in the way of donations! So many clubs, businesses and organizations have shown their generosity in the form of food drives and cash donations. We truly believe that Batesville is made up of the most thoughtful and generous citizens that any community could wish to have. By the way, the most widely donated item by far is green beans: Vegetables in general have been pouring in. The donation ratio between canned vegetables, compared to canned fruit, for example, is about 15:1! If you're looking for a donation opportunity, canned fruit and fruit juices are the way to go, as far as what we need, but don't worry-those vegetables will certainly all get used!

Another blessing we are thankful for is all the wonderful volunteers. The participating churches have been so good about sending in hard working and reliable folks to hand out food to those in need. We pride ourselves on making our pantry a warm and friendly place where the clients feel comfortable and welcome. To paraphrase an old saying, it takes a village to run a pantry, and we are so lucky to have so many helping hands.

After the rush of the holidays, which includes doling out extra holiday food and meat, we are planning to acquire a new freezerless refrigerator unit. This will enable us to order and store more dairy choices and take advantage of sale prices and opportunities that Gleaners, our Food Bank partner, offers. It will take some clever manipulation, but we're hoping that we can squeeze in this extra appliance which we feel will make a good difference in our operation. The Batesville Wrestling Team has volunteered to help us move our freezers around to accommodate this unit and make more efficient use of our space.

Sincerely,

Batesville Area Ministerial Association Food Pantry