

BATESVILLE AREA MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION FOOD
PANTRY
EIN 27-0950349



February, 2014

Dear Friends,

Now that the holidays have come and gone we have the rest of winter to look forward to...and what a chilly winter it's been! So cold, so snowy, so windy, and...SO expensive to maintain living quarters that are warm enough. We are all feeling it, but the children and the elderly are especially hard hit by these circumstances. Having very little to live on means making difficult choices: Do we eat or do we heat the home? Those with medical expenses, of course, feel the pinch even more.

That's why having the Food Pantry in our community is so vitally important to so many. Not only do we provide a week's worth of food per month for our clients, but they are also able to acquire financial assistance with rent, utilities or medicine two times per year. So many times we've heard our clients say that they absolutely do not know how they would make it without our help. But all this help comes at a price. We have been so fortunate to have received some grants from the Ripley County Community Foundation and also donations from members of the community. Without this financial assistance we ourselves can offer no assistance to anyone else. It's all we have to work with.

At the beginning of March we will begin our annual participation in The Feinstein Challenge. Alan Shawn Feinstein is a philanthropist living in Rhode Island who for the past 16 years has been challenging food pantries, soup kitchens, etc. to collect as much food and cash as they can, report the results to the Feinstein Foundation, and share proportionally in his \$1 million dollar give away. Since so many anti hunger agencies participate, the impact is not so much what our share of his gift will be as what we collect from the community as a result of the challenge. This will be his 17th year: Can you even imagine *giving away* \$17,000,000 in order that others may have enough to eat? Now that is commitment! We hope that our community will come through again this year and make this our best Challenge yet. Help to stock our pantry shelves during March and April, which is the duration of the Feinstein Challenge. If you have any questions please feel free to drop into the pantry, located at 120 South Sycamore Street any Wednesday, noon – 4:00, or email us at batesvillefoodpantry@live.com. If you ever thought about doing a food drive, this would be a great time! Thank you!

Sincerely,

Batesville Area Ministerial Association Food Pantry