

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry – August 16, 2016

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry continues to bless families through the hot summer. Often, it is cooler outside than it is inside the building. Generally, by the time our Tuesday distribution is over at 11:00 the temperature is getting up to the point that all of the volunteers are ready to get out of the building. If we did not finish our distribution by 11:00, it would almost be impossible to work much longer. By the middle of most afternoons, the temperature in the warehouse area of the building is well over a hundred degrees. I must say, at this point, we do have a heating and cooling unit in the registration and interview area so that the clients and workers in that area are not too uncomfortable. And, as hot as it is in the summer, it is equally as cold in the winter. The difference is that in the winter it is coldest when we are distributing food. BUT, we are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers who work rain or shine, hot or cold, or whatever other circumstances we might have. Praise God for our volunteers!

If you have driven past Harvest of Hope lately, you have probably noted that we are adding 14 feet down the east side of our building. The purpose of this is to better equip the building so we can better serve our clients. The freezers and cooler will be moved into the addition which will enable us to soon deliver a little more food to our clients. Also, in the back we will have a little more space to store food. I think the biggest change will be the flow of our clients through the building, which we hope will quicken the flow of our clients through the process. It is just taking a little time to get the work done. Hopefully, what we are doing now will equip us to better serve over the next few years.

This month, we have been able to provide eggs to each family for the first time since we opened our doors. Eggs are an excellent source of protein, as most of you know. And a big “Thank you” to those who have been on a daily diet of eggs so that we could have your egg cartons in which to distribute our eggs. We have also been able to give apples to each family.

We want to share with you an added blessing that occurred this past Sunday. A lady from First United Methodist Church came into our Sunday School classroom, bringing two of her grandchildren with her. She told us that her four grandchildren were spending some time with her and her husband before school starts back. They had been collecting change and decided on Saturday night to count it and decide what they wanted to do with it. They decided on four mission projects that they wanted to help. One of the four that they chose was Harvest of Hope Food Pantry. Our portion of their collection was almost \$25.00. What a great way for children to begin to learn about missions and the importance of sharing their blessings with others. Thank you, thank you. We have been blessed so that others can be blessed.

We thank each of you who have donated food products as well as provided financial support during the summer months. As always, donations of food and money have fallen off during the summer but a big “Thank you,” to each of you who have helped us so far this summer. Our ability to get food has not suffered even though we have spent a goodly sum of money to prepare our building for the next years.

Food Lion has continued to be a blessing to our clients. When you go into Food Lion, please thank them for blessing the food pantry.

If you haven't done so, please come by Harvest of Hope on a Monday and see how we pack our food for distribution, or come on a Tuesday and see how we serve our clients. We

would even like for you to consider volunteering to work at Harvest of Hope Food Pantry. Please remember that Harvest of Hope is supported and staffed by individuals moved by God to be His Arms and Hands to serve the people of Sumter County.

Sonny Pinckard

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Executive Director