

# **GODS WAY FOOD PANTRY**

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## **May 2022 We are neighbors helping neighbors...**

Gods Way Food Pantry is a community-based sustainability ministry serving Balsam Grove and surrounding communities. These high remote valleys are home to many of our areas most beautiful vistas, and to families who struggle to provide for basic needs. We are an all-volunteer organization, and every donation goes directly to meet food support needs. No one is ever charged, and no one is ever turned away.

***"Thankfulness" is our heart.... 1 Thessalonians 5:18...Says, "In everything give thanks!" ... We are so thankful for the support given, and lives visibly changed by your generosity.***

Many of you have facilitated our work for years. Your support has been crucial. Situated in a profound food desert, many families struggle with access to resources readily available to most Americans. Poverty and loss of jobs due to COVID 19 have compounded challenges for many. Fiercely independent, many families are reluctant to accept assistance. Most are self- employed and are not included in unemployment benefits when jobs are lost. Our "neighbors helping neighbors" concept helps retain dignity and self-respect when families are in crisis.

Operating funds in 2021 were provided to help meet needs for each county we actively serve. Lake Toxaway Charities (Transylvania County needs) and Nantahala Health Trust (Jackson County needs) have provided grant funds to help meet goals for operating. Pisgah Health Foundation funded a much-needed food storage building. In addition, many churches, organizations, and individuals have given for Seniors and Disabled Projects. The Angel Tree Project, funded by Lake Toxaway Charities (LTC) and Greystone Inn, is distributed during the holiday season. Funds were also provided by LTC to ensure each family was able to have a special holiday meal at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church provided turkeys and hams.

Gods Way has been especially thankful for so many volunteers from Lake Toxaway who have shared their expertise to help us set short-term and long-term goals. We are humbled and very thankful to be your hands of kind generosity. Your support makes a difference in the lives of so many where hardship and isolation are prevalent: The elderly, disabled, and families facing crises.

Today, numbers are still greater than pre-COVID. Although there has been moderation to needs during the summer months when work was plentiful, winter months are challenging. Currently, 500-600 people come to us each month to receive help with food support. A MANNA Foodbank agency in Transylvania and Jackson counties for almost two decades, we distributed over 200,000 lbs of food during 2021, at a value of over \$380,000, and equivalent to 175,000 meals. God Way Food Pantry operates every two weeks, urgent needs are met 24/7. We are working diligently to meet food support needs and to build sustainability to families.

We are asking you to remember us in prayer as we continue to meet the ever-changing needs of our rural communities. We are working to alleviate hunger by distributing foods that your gifts help to provide. We are so thankful for your investment in our communities. We strive to be good stewards of every gift. We sincerely thank you for making such a difference in the future of our communities. As one client stated, "I didn't know how my family would get food when my husband was out of work due to injury. Then a neighbor told me about Gods Way Food Pantry. Within 24 hours, I was given food and supplies, a schedule of distribution dates, and a sense of being a part of community. Even though I live off the mountain, I was made welcome and plan to volunteer when my husband returns to work." We feel the trust of those in need and are humbled to see the differences made in people's lives.

In conclusion, 2021 brought many changes for GWFP. The COVID 19 Pandemic continues to affect in every regard. Our goal to guide families to greater stability remains. As you consider your charitable budget, please consider the needs of the families in these remote communities. We are so thankful for your support through the years and in the future. Blessings from David, Lydia & the Gods Way Team !!!

**GWFP 2022 Projects and Anticipated funding needs.....**

Food is always our first priority.... We strive to provide healthy foods to families in need. Estimate \$48- 50,000

Emergency Generator.... To meet community needs for water and facilities during power outages and to also sustain refrigeration and freezer units when there is no power. This is an urgent need. Estimate is \$40-50,000 LTC has funded generator. Now once it arrives, We are looking to meet installation expenses.

Electrical Restructuring...To address inadequate electrical coverage to sustain refrigeration and freezer needs. Estimate \$50,000

Building Repairs.... To stabilize floors and provide covering where needed. This is a safety and structural need for Food Pantry operation. Estimate \$32,000

Weatherization Needs.... Our 29 year old building has suffered from lack of funds to properly maintain. These are safety and structural needs. Estimate \$29,000

Specific Needs.... For infants and elderly. Diapers and pullups, skin care, nutritional supplements, and formula. Estimate \$2400.

Grant Research/Writer....Need some expertise and time to seek out funding.. We need volunteers

Ice Machine Installation...Donated unit ready to hook up...\$400 to finish

DishWasher.....For sterilization of jars and cooking equipment. Purchase and install \$4000

Parttime Clerical Assistant...This position would help to meet recordkeeping and general clerical needs for GWFP. Estimate \$5000

*Please inquire about other needs or funding possibilities.*