

Gods Way Food Pantry

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Facebook: God's Way Fellowship

Also at godswayfoodpantry.org

December 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.

"Encouragement" Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how to encourage one another in love and good deeds

Many of you have facilitated our work for years. Your support, your encouragement, has been crucial to our good deeds. Located in a profound food desert, families here struggle with access to resource that are readily available to most Americans. Poverty and job losses accelerated by COVID 19 have compounded challenges over the last two years. Our "neighbors helping neighbors" concept helps retain dignity and self-respect when families are in crisis.

Lake Toxaway Charities has granted funds to help meet goals for pantry operation. In addition, many churches, organizations, and individuals help meet pantry needs and projects for Seniors, Gardening, Food Preservation, and Seed Bank. The Angel Tree Project, funded by Lake Toxaway Charities (LTC) and Greystone Inn is distributed during the holiday season to families with children without any other means for Christmas. In 2021, 77 children had needs met by this project. Currently, we had a 50% increase in applications in 2022, ultimately serving over 116 children. These are true needs for children in crisis and hardship. 2021 funds also helped ensure each family was able to have a special holiday meal at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Lake Toxaway United Methodist Church helped to provide for turkeys and hams to round out a truly collaborative effort in 2021 and 2022.

Gods Way has been especially thankful for so many volunteers, many who have shared their expertise, and energies faithfully for years. We are humbled. 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 always 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 2022, at a value of over \$380,000, and equivalent to 175,000 meals. God Way Food Pantry operates every two weeks. Urgent needs occur every week and are met 24/7. We work diligently to meet food support needs and to build sustainability to families through educational projects that many of you help to fund.

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 and educating families. Your gifts help to provide both. 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 knew how to get help for my neighbor who is a single parent after COVID kept her from work without insurance. I told them about Gods Way." We are humbled to see the differences made in people's lives. We have earned the trust of our communities to help when there is crisis.

In conclusion, 2022 brought continued changes for GWFP. The COVID 19 Pandemic continues to affect in every regard. Guiding families to greater stability remains our goal. 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 into the future

Blessings from David, Lydia & the Gods Way Team!!!

GWFP 2022-2023 Projects and Anticipated funding needs...

Food Always our priority. We strive to provide healthy foods to families in need. Estimate \$50-54,000 yearly

Building Repairs.... To stabilize floors in key storage and traffic areas and provide covering where needed.... a safety and structural need for Food Pantry operations.... Estimate \$32,000

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

Dishwasher.....For sterilization of canning jars and cooking equipment. Purchase and install ...Estimate \$4000

Elder Christmas Project...This is a yearly project...A special way to honor the elderly and chronically ill in our communities, a way to brighten shut-in lives with a delivered "goody bag" and card by Food Pantry volunteers.... Estimate \$2000

Food Preservation Collaborative with Balsam Grove Community Community wide initiation to canning and food preservation. Funds needed for startup expenses and additional equipment and supplies. This project will be partially self-sustaining this year. Clients for classes will donate funds as they are able to help meet partial costs of class materials.... Estimate \$ 3500

Gardening and Seed Bank....Continued collection of heirloom open-pollinated seeds to expand seed saving project for area gardeners. Educational Greenhouse seed, supplies, amendments, and compost to provide plants for local gardeners. Educational garden beds supplement food production in our community ...Estimate \$1500

Diaper Project.... For infants and elderly. Diapers and pullups, skin care, nutritional supplements, and formula.... Estimate\$2000

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

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

Needs Met/ Completed in 2022.....

Food Storage Building....Completed and now in use via funds from Pisgah Health Foundation

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. LTC has funded a generator... Awaiting unit and Installation at the earliest opportunity.

Electrical Restructuring...To address inadequate electrical coverage to sustain refrigeration and freezer needs. LTC funded. Awaiting completion at the earliest opportunity.

Exterior Weatherization ...Building exterior repairs, caulking, staining, and handicap access improvements have been completed. LTC funds enabled these imperative repairs/ improvements.

Greenhouse/ Seed Bank/ Food Preservation...From private donors. In place for community education materials, extended season plant production for community distribution, crop production demo beds, food preservation workshops, and seed-saving education. These projects expanded/ initiated in 2022 and in full operation for 2023.

Please inquire about other needs or funding possibilities.