

FALL 2025

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Our Thanksgiving Promise: We'll keep making room at the table.

Thanksgiving meals really show the power of food. It's an incredible conduit for community, bringing hospitality, gratitude, and joyful exuberance to our tables—and often the comfort, healing, and connection we all need, especially when times are hard.

And right now, times are hard. For so many of our neighbors, gathering around any table, let alone a festive spread during Thanksgiving, is not an option. Hunger has reached historic highs. In Central and Eastern Kentucky, 1 in 5 people, including 1 in 4 children, are without essential nourishment. *The facts are unconscionable.* **There should be no doubt that there is room at the table for our neighbors—that the power of a shared meal also belongs to them.**

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Our Thanksgiving Promise: We'll keep making room at the table.

(Continued from cover)

God's Pantry Food Bank has been making hunger visible and supporting our neighbors for 70 years. Rest assured: Our mission is steadfast regardless of the challenges that may come our way. We are immensely grateful for the generosity that allows us to keep Sharing Thanksgiving and for the ongoing contributions ensuring we remain a reliable resource across 50 counties throughout the year. **Together, we are the safety net.** And I can't thank you enough. •

With warmth and thanksgiving,



Michael J. Halligan
President & CEO

Making Hunger Visible: Thanksgiving for Amanda

"When I was little, my grandmother always hummed when she cooked, and that's just my favorite thing about Thanksgiving," Amanda reminisced. Along with thousands of other families at our Sharing Thanksgiving event, she was there to pick up a holiday food box, which would help her create and share a meal with her family—a tradition they look forward to every year.

Amanda's story is woven by faith and love for the people in her life. As a mom, wife, and recovering addict who has been sober for 16 years, her resilience, generosity, and gratitude were on full display as we spoke. *"I'm grateful for my family. God brought me through so much and blessed me with a wonderful child; I'm most thankful for him."*



Amanda, Laurel County

She emphasized how a Thanksgiving meal is more than filling your plate. *"[I love] family getting together because we don't do that enough. When it comes to holidays, we make sure we get together."*

Amanda has been supported by God's Pantry Food Bank and our partner, Fed by Grace Food Pantry, intermittently for a little more than five years. A disability has prevented her from doing the work she loves, but still, she strives to provide food for her family and neighbors; she raises chickens for eggs and utilizes the pantry to help when low on funds. *"Bills and the price of food have gone up so much," she said. "It's a very bad feeling when you have to wonder if you're going to buy your dinner or pay your bill. I wish that on no one."*

Thankfully, Amanda knows "the pantry is always there if you need them." We are so grateful for the many contributions that make this possible. Like Amanda, we hope your Thanksgiving is nourished and blessed with a table surrounded by those you hold dear. •



Hey, Kentucky—We are thankful for YOU!

Volunteers really show us the power of compassion and collective action. Across our 50-county service area, our neighbors and friends have made a real impact on hunger by dedicating their time, passion, and resources to the Food Bank and our network of hunger-relief partnerships. We truly cannot do this work without you!

In this season of gratitude, God's Pantry Food Bank sends our *sincerest thanks* to everyone who has joined this movement of neighbors helping neighbors to reduce hunger in our communities.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR IMPACT ON HUNGER! Fiscal Year 2025



Want to get involved alongside other neighbors building a more food-secure future?
Scan the QR code to find volunteer opportunities with the Food Bank or your local pantry!





The Day Family, Perry County

A Nourished Future: There's Room at the Table for You.

In the hills of Perry County, Kentucky, Teddy Day wakes up before dawn, pushing through pain to provide for his daughters. He works full-time, but still struggles to put food on the table. Some days, he skips meals so his kids don't have to.

Teddy's story is not unique.

Across Central and Eastern Kentucky, **nearly 280,000 people** face hunger—the **highest number ever recorded**. In some rural counties, **1 in 3 children** are food insecure. The **meal gap has surged to 53 million meals annually**, and families like Teddy's are feeling the strain every single day.

This is not just a crisis. It's a call to action.

That's why God's Pantry Food Bank launched the **\$40 million "Building the Future, Nourishing Communities" capacity campaign**—not just to build infrastructure, but to **deliver more food, more often, to more people**. The campaign strengthens our ability to support partners like **New Hope Hazard**

Food Pantry, which helps Teddy stretch his resources and give his kids a sense of normalcy.

"It's not just about eating," Teddy says. "It's about being able to go to the skate park, or take a hike, or just have a little bit of normal."



With your help, we can make sure families don't have to choose between food and rent, or between dinner and medicine. We can ensure that rural communities aren't left behind.

There's room at the table for you. You can help lay the groundwork that ensures a future with a nourished life for every Kentuckian.

Learn more about 'Building the Future, Nourishing Communities' today, and consider being part of the impact that can only come with the power of neighbors helping neighbors. •



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