God’s Pantry Food Bank and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield Collaborate to Increase Access to Better Food

Anthem commits $190,000 to God’s Pantry Food Bank to help alleviate hunger in Central and Eastern Kentucky.

Lexington, KY (February 5, 2020) – God’s Pantry Food Bank and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield announced that Anthem is donating $190,000 to the Food Bank to help it provide healthy food to many of the 250,000 individuals who are hungry in Central and Eastern Kentucky who do not have consistent access to nutritious food. The financial support will make it possible for the Food Bank to broaden the mix of food it provides individuals in-need as well as provide increased access to the food through more produce-centric direct deliveries throughout the 50 counties God’s Pantry Food Bank serves, through more than 400 partner pantries and meal programs.

“Fresh fruits and vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet. The food pantry and meal programs we work with along with those who are hungry tell us cost and accessibility prevent them from buying or eating enough fresh produce,” said Michael Halligan, CEO, God’s Pantry Food Bank. “Thank you Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield for your generous support for bringing more produce to the plates of the most vulnerable in our population.”

God’s Pantry Food Bank distributed 40 million pounds of food in 2019, of which more than 13 million pounds is fresh fruits and vegetables. Hunger and access to healthy food options are significant factors that impact the health of hundreds of thousands of Kentuckians each year. Fresh fruits and vegetables are among the healthiest foods an individual can consume. However, individuals facing food insecurity cannot afford or do not have access to fresh produce. And not eating healthy may lead to significant medical issues, such as obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.

“Anthem has been in the Kentucky community for more than 80 years and we’re committed to doing our part in improving the communities in which we operate as well as helping consumers lead healthier lives,” said Rob Cleary, Regional Vice President of Sales for Anthem’s Medicare Central Region. “We view health through a whole-person lens – one that takes into account not only an individual’s medical needs, but the underlying social, economic, and environmental factors that impact his or her health. Addressing the barriers that impede healthier living – such as access to healthy food – allows us to contribute to healthier outcomes and better quality of life for individuals.”

This sponsorship is part of Anthem’s ongoing support of God’s Pantry Food Bank and its network food pantries and meal programs to help individuals improve their health and well-being. Anthem’s donation will mainly assist the food bank’s Produce to Plate Program, which started in 2010 when the Food Bank decided to double its produce distribution.

Lack of access to sufficient, affordable, nutritious food – often called food insecurity – is a significant challenge in Kentucky. Nearly 750,000 Kentuckians face hunger every day. God’s Pantry Food Bank is a part of Feeding America’s national network of food banks across the country.

[Picture from Feb. 4 event]
About God’s Pantry Food Bank

The mission of God’s Pantry Food Bank is to reduce hunger in Kentucky through community cooperation making the best possible use of all available resources. Partnering through more than 400 food pantry and meal programs the Food Bank serves 50 counties of Central and Eastern Kentucky distributing $100 worth of food for every $10 donated. Last year, God’s Pantry Food Bank and its partner agencies distributed more than 39.7 million pounds of groceries to more than 190,000 individuals, including 13.8 million pounds of fresh produce. For more information visit us at www.GodsPantryFoodBank.org.

About Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

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