For Immediate Release

GOD’S PANTRY FOOD BANK FACING INCREASED DEMAND
SEEKS TO ENHANCE SERVICES IN 2023

Lexington, KY – December 19, 2022

God’s Pantry Food Bank rallies community support for more than 475 emergency feeding sites and nearly 240,000 people facing food insecurity by providing enough nutritious food to create 35 million meals. In the past six months the Food Bank has seen increased demand and higher operating costs. High inflation, unprecedented flooding in Eastern Kentucky, a tighter supply chain, and the loss of federal pandemic support programs have all played a role. In response, the Food Bank is purchasing more food, has added a number of food pantry and meal programs to its network, and is providing financial grants to agencies to help ease access costs. In addition, the Food Bank has increased the mobile pantry program to support 12 counties and anticipates adding three to five additional truck drivers to help extend delivery capabilities.

“Our Food Bank team learned during the pandemic that increasing programs will benefit communities. We’ve taken action to better assist those experiencing hunger,” according to Michael Halligan, CEO. “But, there is more that must be done to provide the food needed to nourish lives so every Kentuckian may thrive.”

In 2023, the Food Bank will accelerate implementation of existing strategic plans. Some of the key service enhancements include the grand opening of a volunteer center in Fayette County, work to refurbish a new warehouse in Lexington, adding mobile pantries to support additional counties, and finalizing plans to add more regional distribution capacity. The goal is to increase the Food Bank’s overall network capabilities by 35 - 40% annually.

In January, the Food Bank will seek proposals to refurbish a warehouse on 2201 Innovation Drive purchased from Webasto with funds from an anonymous donor. The Food Bank has partnered with EOP Architects to develop a layout and architectural concept which, when complete, will expand warehousing capacity to include
more than double the amount of freezer and cooler space. When operational, the facility will have the capabilities to meet the entirety of demand for emergency food assistance we see in our 50-county service area.

A new volunteer center will open at 817 Winchester Road early in 2023. A fifth Fayette County pantry will also be available at the site with an expected opening next fall. For volunteers, the center will allow increased, more frequent, engagement with the Food Bank. For those experiencing hunger, the center will improve food access and convenience – a model that was recently used in the Food Bank’s pantry partnership with the Northside Branch of the Lexington Public Library.

To complement local food pantry and meal programs across the region, the Food Bank will continue enhancing mobile pantry capacity. Service to 18 counties is expected by the end of March 2023 with an estimated 22 county capability by December 2023. These food pantries on wheels allow those experiencing hunger to seek additional monthly access to foods that are otherwise in more limited supply. As announced on November 1st, the Food Bank is also teaming up with Appalachian Regional Healthcare (ARH) and the Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC) on a local food promotion program in Eastern Kentucky.

“We are grateful for the multitude of individuals, families, and businesses who partner with God’s Pantry Food Bank,” said Amanda Goldman, Board President. “Your support for health, wellness, and food security leads to healthier communities. Together, we are able to foster hope and nourish those in need by reducing hunger.”

Insight about all of the critical programming offered by God’s Pantry Food Bank can be found at https://GodsPantryFoodBank.org/programs/. For those who would like to help fund existing programs or any of the up-coming enhanced services please donate securely on-line at https://GodsPantryFoodBank.org/donate/.

Karen Griffin, Development Director, can also provide additional guidance by calling 859-288-5325 or via e-mail at kagriffin@godspantry.org.

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About God’s Pantry Food Bank

The mission of God’s Pantry Food Bank is to reduce hunger by working together to feed Kentucky communities. Working through more than 475 food pantries and meal programs the Food Bank serves 50 counties across Central and Eastern Kentucky. God’s Pantry Food Bank distributed more than 40 million pounds of food to many of the nearly 240,000 neighbors facing food insecurity in the region, including more than 15.5 million pounds of fresh produce in fiscal year 2022. For more information, visit us at www.GodsPantryFoodBank.org.

God’s Pantry Food Bank is an equal opportunity provider and employer.