



SEPTEMBER 2016

 **Our Mission** 

**The mission of the Brooklyn Food Pantry is to assist community members residing in the Columbia, Napoleon, and Onsted school districts who are in need of emergency food..**

I can't believe its September already. It seems like I just wrote our June newsletter. As always we have been busy here at the BFP. In the last quarter we fed 1030 people. We also have had 38 new families come to the pantry. That is a record for us.

We are now gearing up for our busy season. November through January we will see almost double the amount of families than we do the rest of the year.

Your support is what allows us to help out our neighbors in their time of need. We thank everyone for their support but wanted to especially thank a few people:

- 1 Jackson United Way FEMA grant for the \$1,000 grant money.
2. Brooklyn Big Boy and the classic car shows for their donation of \$400
3. Irish Hills Community Church \$700 donation
4. St. Joseph Shrine \$846 donation
5. Cement City Baptist Church ongoing monthly support
6. Brooklyn Presbyterian Church ongoing monthly support
7. Everyone that helps support what we do

**VOLUNTEERS:**

We want to give a special thank you to some outstanding high school students that are going above and beyond to help their local community. The Columbia Central High School National Honor Society takes their lunch time one day a week to pick up fresh produce donated by Adams Farms and delivers it to the pantry. These young adults are spending their lunch time to ensure others have fresh produce. The words thank you simply aren't enough to express our gratitude.

Our current greatest needs are:

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

Bars of soap

Clean and in good shape paper grocery bags

I also wanted to share with everyone that the last several years we have been able to give away brand new kids coats starting in October. Last year we gave away around 300 coats. Unfortunately, as of right now we don't have a sponsor for this program and without a sponsor we won't be able to do this. If you are interested in sponsoring this program please give us a call.

One of our heartwarming stories:

We recently had a new person come into our pantry. She is an older lady and was obviously a little upset and embarrassed that she came in and asked for help. As she sat with me, she shared her story. She has easily been able to live off her husband's retirement and her social security. She made sure to tell me that in the past that she had contributed to the pantry to help others and now she needed help. She had had a health scare and her doctor ordered several tests and new medications. With those additional health bills she couldn't afford food. She also wanted to me to know that once those bills were paid off that she would start donating again and wouldn't come in and ask for help. I shared with her to please not worry and to take care of herself and that we were happy to help. At the end of her visit she hugged all our volunteers and myself and kept saying thank you. We were just happy that we were here and able to help her.

We hope you enjoy these newsletters and thank you for all your support.

Brooklyn Food Pantry