

**For Immediate Release**  
**October 14, 2014**

### **Woodford County food pantry receives state grant**

**FRANKFORT** – State officials will present a \$50,000 check this week to the new Hope Ministries Food Pantry in Woodford County.

The check presentation will take place at 3 p.m. Wednesday at 20 Field of Dreams Road in Versailles, which is adjacent to the Bluegrass Railroad Museum. Woodford County Fiscal Court magistrates will be on hand to receive the check from the Department of Local Government.

“Our food pantry is a living example of the compassion in Woodford County,” said Rep. James Kay, D-Versailles, whose district includes the area served by Hope Ministries.

“For over two decades, our food pantry has served so many without a permanent location,” said Kay. “We will now have a home to better serve our neighbors in need, and I'm thankful to our churches and community leaders for making it possible and for my colleagues in the General Assembly for seeing the importance of investing in this community building project.”

The money for the food pantry was a line-itemed expenditure in the current state budget.

Relocating the food pantry's distribution center to the new building costs \$300,000. The students of the civil engineering and architecture class at Woodford County High School created the design for the 4,480-square-foot warehouse.

In 2013 the food pantry served 3,865 families and 8,563 individuals during the 117 days it was in operation. The food pantry reported 248 new clients last year. Many of them listed job losses or low pay as contributing to their need for assistance.

The food pantry has been in existence for 21 years and is designed to assist low-income families with emergency food rather than ongoing support. Participants may use the pantry up to six times per year. The goal is to assist families with emergency food as the result of a catastrophic event regardless of income.

Originally, boxes of food were prepared by food pantry workers and distributed according to family size. In 2002 the nonprofit switched to what is called a “client choice system,” much like grocery shopping. It enabled clients to choose the items they could use, the total amount allowed still depending on the number in the family.

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