

Food Pantry for Woodford County, Inc.
20 Field of Dreams Road
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Organization:

The Woodford County Food Pantry was formed in 1992, by volunteers of the seventeen churches of the Ministerial Association of Woodford County to serve the needs of the low income families, who were struggling with providing adequate meals for their families. The Food Pantry was formed to also stop church shopping and depleting outreach funds in the in-town churches. The Food Pantry Board is made up of members from the member churches of the Ministerial Association and are all volunteers. In 2003, the Woodford County Food Pantry officially became the Hope Ministries Food Pantry under the 501 (c) (3) protection of the Ministerial Association of Woodford County. Board membership continued to be the same.

In June of 2015 the Ministerial Association wanted the Food Pantry to separate from the Ministerial Association due to the large liability concern for the Ministerial Association due to the ownership of a building and a commercial van for the Food Pantry. In July of 2015, Hope Ministries Food Pantry filed Articles of Incorporation to the state of Kentucky to become a non-profit organization and became **FOOD PANTRY FOR WOODFORD COUNTY, INC.** In August of 2015, the paperwork was sent to the IRS for 501 (c) (3) status. In the interim while the Food Pantry was waiting for recognition from the IRS, a committee was formed to write the bylaws of the corporation. The non-profit-status was granted in October of 2015 and we were officially our own stand-alone non-profit corporation. In October 2015, a diversified Food Pantry Board of Directors was formed with Church Directors, Community Directors, Ex-Officio Members and Emeritus Members. The Board runs the business of the Food Pantry and an Executive Director runs the Food Pantry operation and grant writing.

After a couple of years of operation, the bylaws were revised for a better operation of the Food Pantry of Woodford County, Inc. Corporation.

Location:

The Food Pantry has moved several times, including basement of Versailles Baptist Church, Crossfield Drive, Old KU building and 299 South Main Street in the kitchen of the Versailles Elementary School then Woodford County Adult Education Center, and then the Safe Harbor School. In 2013 and 2014, the volunteer staff of the Food Pantry began a search for a new location for the Food Pantry because for the safety of the children and new rules for schools, the Food Pantry had to move to evening hours after school was closed and then we were asked to find a new location. After the search was exhausted without results, the Food Pantry Board and the Food Pantry Task Force petitioned Judge Executive, John Coyle and the Woodford County Fiscal Court for help with finding a facility for this organization that served a need for the less fortunate of this community. The Fiscal Court agreed to allocate a piece of County property for the food pantry, but no monies would be given to support the building of a facility.

After meetings with the Hope Ministries Clothing Bank who decided not to join the Food Pantry with raising the funds and build a building that would accommodate the two organizations, the Food Pantry Task Force began an earnest effort to do fundraising and raise the money to build a 4,500 sq. ft. building. A rendering had been done as a suggestion for a Food Pantry building by Girl Scout Troop 173 and these suggestions were turned over to the Civil Engineering and Architecture class of Woodford County High School. This class provided the actual drawings that were approved by an Architectural firm and used for the building of a new 4,500 sq. ft. steel building with reception, offices, unisex bath, food pantry and warehouse.

The fundraising began with the churches of the Ministerial Association of Woodford County, there was private money given for a food pantry and the Food Pantry also received a \$50,000 grant from a budget line item requested and preserved by State Representative James Kay. The vendors and contractors working on the Food Pantry building also made in-kind donations and within sixteen months, Woodford County had a 4,500 sq. ft. food pantry that was ready for operation and was totally debt-free. The location for the new Food Pantry is 20 Field of Dreams Road in the Woodford County Park. The Food Pantry will have this property as long as the property and building are for a food pantry. If for

some reason the Food Pantry organization was to move from this location, all properties including building and land will revert back to the Woodford County Fiscal Court.

Hours of Operation:

Our Food Pantry is an emergency source for food. Clients should not rely on the Food Pantry for a source of monthly food, but may come to the Food Pantry each month for government commodities only. Clients may come to the Food Pantry six times a year to receive donated food in the Food Pantry. It is suggested clients alternate months by coming one month for full access to the Food Pantry and receive commodities, donated foods, purchased foods, grocer donated foods and perishable food items, then come the next month to receive government commodities only. Clients can come to the food pantry 12 months out of the year for food. The only thing is when receiving commodities only, the clients will not receive as much food as they receive with their full access visits.

The Woodford County Food Pantry was open 3 days a week M & F 2-4 pm and W 10-12 am. Hope Ministries Food Pantry followed the same hours of operation until August 2009 when changes were needed for the afterschool programs, parent pick up and drop off, bus schedules and then the hours were changed to M & F 1:30 – 3:30 pm and W 9:30 – 11:30 am. In 2012, the hours were changed to Monday evening 5 – 7 pm and Friday 5 - 7 pm. These hours prevented contact with the students.

The Food Pantry is a “Client Choice” food pantry where the clients shop for their food items as they would in a regular store and are not handed a pre-made box of food. This allows the client to choose the foods their family will eat and enjoy.

When Food Pantry for Woodford County opened on February 1, 2015 the hours were Monday evening 5 – 7 pm and Thursday morning 9 – 11 am and again from 2 – 4 pm. After a few months of these hours, the hours were changed again to prevent the volunteers from working hours without clients and the hours were changed to the current hours of Monday 5 – 7 pm and Thursday 1 – 4 pm. These hours seem to work well for all ages of our clients.

Programs:

The Woodford County Food Pantry became a member of God’s Pantry and Feeding America and had access to government commodities and low cost foods for the Food Pantry operation. For many years Woodford County only had a need for a food pantry and this was the only program available through God’s Pantry, US Department of Agriculture, and Feeding America.

In 2010, the US Department of Agriculture and God’s Pantry started the CSFP (Commodity Supplemental Food Program) in Woodford County whereby the senior citizens of this community had access to a monthly food box containing approximately 40 pounds of commodities. These food boxes are distributed on the first Tuesday of the month.

In 2011, the Direct Service Truck delivery food program for over 100 citizens of Woodford County was started by God’s Pantry and US Department of Agriculture. A large amount of food was made available through commodities and purchased food through God’s Pantry. This food distribution

2

took place on the third Wednesday of each month. This program lasted for 5 years and in March 2017, this program ended for Woodford County and was moved to another county.

In 2016, Feeding America developed a perishable food program through Kroger, Walmart, and other large grocers whereby local food pantries could make daily pickup of perishable foods for the pantry clients. God’s Pantry is the liaison between Kroger and Food Pantry for Woodford County so the Food Pantry can pick up and continue to receive perishable food items. This program is county specific and we do not go outside of Woodford County for pick up. Foods from out of county can be brought to us if there is an overload.

In 2018, Little Caesar Pizza also began a perishable food program with the food pantry and pizzas are picked up seven days a week also.

Food Pantry Staff:

All workers of the Woodford County Food Pantry are volunteers. There is no paid staff with the Food Pantry. As changes have been made at the Food Pantry and as our name has changed, the staff and workers of the food pantry have remained all volunteers.

In 2017, the Board of Directors decided to hire outside contractors for maintaining the tile floors and cleaning our facility. In order to assure the cleanliness of our facility and to make sure there was time to maintain our facility it became necessary to hire contractors for these duties.

Food Sources:

Food supplies for the Woodford County Food Pantry come from private donations of the members of the churches of the Ministerial Association and then the food pantry was able to get government commodities after the Food Pantry became a member of God's Pantry Food Bank. Government commodities are food surplus items purchased by the federal government to keep prices competitive for our farmers. Food donations are received from the private sector through individuals and churches. Kroger and Save A Lot have barrels in their stores for food donations. After becoming Food Pantry for Woodford County, Inc., all food sources remained the same.

Through the years food drives have benefitted the food pantry and have kept the shelves well stocked. The Food Pantry is well supported by this community and the Food Pantry has never had to close the doors due to lack of food.

After the non-profit status and the name had been changed to Food Pantry for Woodford County, Inc. and the fundraising and building of the facility, the community seemed to be more aware of the existence of a food pantry and now there are numerous food drives done annually to keep the shelves full. Some of the food drives are: Postal Letter Carriers Food Drive annually in May, Woodford County High School done annually as part of their Thanksgiving programs, all public and private schools in the community, local merchants, local horse farms, local manufacturing facilities, Kiwanis, Boy and Girl Scouts, Cram the Cruiser with local police, first responders, and the State Police, GleanKY and the community homemakers. The largest food drives are the Postal Letter Carriers Food Drive and the Woodford County High School food drive and these are spaced about 6 months apart and allow for a large influx of food every six months.

Income:

The Woodford County Food Pantry applies annually for a United Way of the Bluegrass Grant for food purchases for stocking the shelves and freezers of the food pantry as well as, for milk and eggs, and meat, cheese, margarine, crackers, and cereal purchases.

In 2010, the annual grant process became a Regional grant process for a three year period. With this new grant process there is reporting every six months to keep United Way informed on how operations are going and any changes that may be taking place with the food pantry and clients.

3

The Food Pantry also receives monetary donations from the private and business sectors of Woodford County.

In 2016, Food Pantry for Woodford County, Inc. participated in the Goodgiving Challenge through the Bluegrass Community Foundation and Razoo and was able to receive some new donations through that program. In 2017, the Board of Directors decided not to participate again due to the platform fees from the fundraising organization.

In 2017, a new fundraising website which is totally free through Red Basket.org was recognized by Gods Pantry for the food pantries to use for fundraising. In 2018, the food pantry tried its first Red Basket fundraising.

Client Requirements:

When the Food Pantry was formed, the food pantry clients had to prove need and their monthly income through Community Action which would in turn provide vouchers for the clients to present to the Food Pantry as proof of need.

In 2014, Community Action was having a hard time keeping a full time director and the proof of need fell on the staff of Hope Ministries Food Pantry. At that time more information was needed by the staff of the Food Pantry to assure need. So new forms were developed with more client information.

In 2015 when Food Pantry for Woodford County, Inc. opened its doors in the new facility a new computer system was available with software developed by a local company to maintain client personal information and client visit information.

Existing client information needs for food service are copies of Social Security Cards for all individuals living in the household, proof of income for all individuals in the household, including any children who may receive disability or survivorship income, and proof of Woodford County residence.

Other Food Sources for the Food Pantry Clients:

The Food Pantry for Woodford County works with the various organizations in the community to provide more food for the low-income families of this community. The Food Pantry works with the churches, Salvation Army, and Kiwanis to provide holiday meals, and holiday food baskets and there is a weekly Community Dinner available to the clients. Some of the manufacturing facilities in 2018 also had competitions for the most food donated to the food pantry

Client Food Distribution Facts:

In 2017, the Food Pantry served 1268 boxes of food. These went to 401 different families with 957 members. Due to some families being served more than once in the year, a total of 2982 pantry were 143.