



PAC Newsletter

Fall 2024

AN UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

A Year in Review; the Year Ahead

This is the season to reflect on the past year and plan for the new year. When we consider our blessings in 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the generosity afforded by the community in supporting the mission of providing supplemental food to our food insecure neighbors in Adair County.

2024 marks ten years since the establishment of the Pantry for Adair County (PAC). The minutes from the first board meeting stated they began “to plan and dream” about how the six founding churches could work together to put more food on the tables of our neighbors in need. Their dreams probably didn’t stretch to what the pantry has become today. One charter board member has said, “PAC has grown and matured in its ability to meet the needs of the food insecure.” We celebrated this achievement on October 5th with a reception and fundraiser. The 10 years of service event featured a slide presentation showcasing scenes from the pantry over the years. Initially this was a mobile distribution, but later grew to an improved facility with the drive-through operation we have today. At the celebration, the pantry’s first manager shared the organization’s history and led us in prayer. There was a silent auction and opportunity to pledge donations toward the purchase of food. A volunteer shared his story along with anonymous vignettes from some of PAC’s clientele. Major sponsorships and other monetary support were provided by a few key entities, but many individuals donated generously. At the conclusion of the 50/50 raffle, proceeds were donated back to the cause in its entirety. Food, drink and fellowship were shared as well. Since most items for the event were donated, proceeds were maximized, topping \$10,000. Again, we are grateful for the generosity of the community and the hard work by several board members and faithful volunteers who made this event a success.

Volunteers are the backbone of the pantry’s operation by showing up daily to assist with distributions, truck deliveries, and retail rescue collections. Over the years, the support has expanded to include nearly every church in the county, many individuals, service, civic and youth organizations, and businesses of every type and size. PAC is truly a community project.

Our first challenge in 2024 (other than the snow and ice) was to select a new manager upon the retirement of the previous manager. This took several months to find the right fit for this unique mission, but we are solidly settled with new leadership of day-to-day operations.

The board outlined and prioritized goals for the year, which for the most part have been achieved. Continuation of these achievements will be ongoing goals for the board in 2025. PACFood.org is the new website. If you haven’t visited it, please do! The website provides a platform from which to donate, sign up to volunteer, and access the form to obtain services. Keeping the website up to date will be an ongoing project. Communication through Facebook is our primary means of releasing regular information about pantry happenings. Manager Monday postings share insights from the pantry manager and Thankful Thursday’s feature recent donor or volunteer activities. If the weather is questionable, check Facebook for closing announcements. Be sure to follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/HungerinAdair> and “like” us or share the post.

Another goal was to elevate PAC’s presence in the community. Actions to support this goal included many activities including an information booth at the Kiwanis Farmers Market on several Saturdays, a table at the annual Community Engagement Conference, and NEMO Connect annual events. Several board members were on hand to assist at Kraft Foods sponsored Bologna Fest from which t-shirt sales proceeds were given to PAC. PAC hosted and participated in food drives throughout the year including the annual SOUPer Bowl. PAC had representation in the Truman homecoming parade and were the recipient of the annual philanthropy fund drive receiving over \$23,000 in support. Multiple TV and radio interviews along with newspaper coverage helped get the word out about PAC. Advancing our community presence will be ongoing work for 2025.

Renewing PAC's occupancy agreement with Central Church of Christ was a priority goal. This shared agreement is a major part of PAC's story. In the early years PAC was a mobile pantry operated out of a converted delivery truck located on the parking lot of Faith UMC and Truman Farm during inclement weather. A fixed physical location was desperately needed and a search for a permanent location ensued. Options were explored and cost analysis forecasted – all of which were figures with many zeroes. This was simply not affordable. Then a fortunate offer was made to locate where PAC is today at 2012 S. Halliburton. A metal building owned by Central Church of Christ and previously used as a bus barn was made available. PAC, along with hard work and generous contributions, transformed and expanded the facility to serve as a warehouse and distribution facility. An annex with walk-in freezer and cooler space was added. This partnership has been a leap of faith by both parties to the benefit of the entire community of Adair County. We are pleased to have renewed the occupancy agreement for another seven years. Thank you, Central Church of Christ.

Solidifying and expanding PAC's donor base is another goal where our hard-working fundraising chair and her committee have focused. Communication with contributors, grant writing, and spearheading food and fund drives have been at times an exhausting ongoing task. Additionally, this was the first year a PAC newsletter became a reality. Until we build the database to include more emails, this will be delivered by mail a couple of times a year. Building a database is tedious work, but necessary to support the core mission of providing food to those who need it. Obviously, this will be a continuing goal for next year and beyond.

Pursuit of grants seems a little like fishing. Lots of work goes into preparation, planning, and assembly of details without knowing if there will even be a "bite", much less land a "catch". This year PAC was graciously awarded grant funds from the Tri-County Electric Cooperative Foundation to purchase new utility wagons that are used during distribution. The old ones were falling apart and had been patched together. The new wagons arrived unassembled, so a local Boy Scout group volunteered to put them together. TCEC Foundation awarded PAC a grant the previous year to purchase database

software. At the beginning of 2024, the MFA Foundation awarded PAC a grant to purchase a new produce rack. A few years ago, a local 4-H group installed an on-site produce garden. The garden has been maintained by a member of the Kirksville Area Master Gardeners. Recently, we are very excited to announce, PAC has been the recipient of two grants that will double the garden size, refresh the existing garden, install a water supply, and add other enhancements like fencing and composting. These awards come as a cash grant through Thousand Hills Rotary and a cost-share grant from the Missouri Department of Agriculture program. The state's grant will fund the project in part by reimbursing up to 75% of approved costs. The Thousand Hills Rotary cash grant for approved project costs will serve as the required match to leverage the bigger project that entails installation of a water line and yard hydrant. To top this partnership off, the raised bed installation work is part of an Eagle Scout candidate's project proposal. The garden expansion work will carry through into early 2025 with a goal of being ready for the upcoming growing season.

Renewing our partnering agency agreement with The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri is core to PAC's ongoing operation. Although we fill the gaps with regular food purchases and food donations, food we receive through The Food Bank cannot be replaced with PAC's limited resources. In addition to The Food Bank's direct procurements, their sources include Feeding America and two USDA programs. In furtherance of our partnership with The Food Bank, we have agreed to facilitate the distribution of their Buddy Pack program by being the drop-off location from where various school districts will pick up the food they distribute to children. Once a month volunteers will help load the Buddy Packs.

This is exciting and meaningful work we are doing together. Whether you are a donor or volunteer or both, know that you are having an impact on mitigating food insecurity in our community. In 2025 we will build on the progress made in 2024 which is added to the foundation passed on to this board by our predecessors.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

GRATEFULLY SUBMITTED, **The Board of Directors for Pantry for Adair County**

Sarah Topp, *President*
Denise Brechue,
President-Elect

Tiffany Busch, *Secretary*
Julie Atchley, *Treasurer*
Janie Theobald

Rebecca Shirk
Bonnie McCollum
Pam Ryan

Tyana Lange
Nicole Summers
Melissa Herleth

Buddy Pack Update

The Pantry for Adair County is stepping into a new role to support the food security needs of children in our region of the state. Many children have access to food at school - on school days - but there are lots of days when kids are not in school and families need other food resources. Research indicates that children facing food insecurity have more emotional and academic trouble. While our monthly PAC food distributions are available to all Adair County families, there are outstanding needs for families with children in Adair County and throughout Northeast Missouri.

A well-known resource, the Buddy Pack Program, provides pre-packed supplemental weekend nutrition for early learning and elementary students. Alternatively, some schools in our region host School Markets, which are like small food pantries that give kids and their families the flexibility to choose the food items they take home. These markets are operated in some early learning centers, all the way up through high schools.

Beginning in November 2024, the PAC is serving as the drop-off site for the children's food programs administered by the Food Bank for Central and

Northeast Missouri. This means that we will receive a monthly truck loaded with pallets of food designated for nine area schools who participate in the Buddy Pack or School Market programs. Representatives from each of the schools will come to the PAC to retrieve the foods. While the Food Bank manages the program administration, our volunteers will be onsite to assist with the unloading and loading of the foods as they make their way to the participating schools.

At the PAC we are delighted to have a new way we can serve a target demographic of people suffering from food insecurity. We are already a distribution site for Veteran's Boxes and we also operate a CSFP Senior Box Program. It seems fitting to continue to reach out and meet the need for children and their families. Participation in any of these targeted programs does not exempt a household from receiving our regular monthly food distributions. We are grateful for a strong partnership with the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri which makes these programs possible.



Photo above: Nicole Summers at the 10 Years of Service banquet.

AVERAGES

FOR 2024



642

households
assisted
per month

25

 new cases per month

58

volunteers
per month



462

average volunteer
hours per month



34

senior boxes
per month

15.7%

 Adair County –
Food Insecurity
Rate

Giving Tuesday



The ninth annual Giving Tuesday is on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Giving Tuesday takes place annually, the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. Giving Tuesday is a global generosity movement that is designed to unleash the power of radical generosity. It's a simple idea: whether it's making someone smile, helping a neighbor or stranger out, showing up for an issue or people we care about, or giving some of what we have to those who need our help, every act of generosity counts, and everyone has something to contribute toward building the better world we all want to live in.

You can show your generosity in a variety of ways such as

- Support your local social good organizations, like the Pantry for Adair County
- Do an act of kindness or help a neighbor
- Identify your gifts, pick a cause that you are passionate about, and give back – not just for Giving Tuesday, but every day

Some Acts of Kindness Ideas:

- Volunteer to foster or walk dogs at your local animal shelter.
- Beautify your neighborhood by planting flowers or organizing a cleanup effort.
- Pay for the coffee or meal of the person behind you in line at a cafe or restaurant.
- Shovel snow for a senior or someone who needs assistance.
- Make extra food (like chili or soup) and offer some to a neighbor.
- Pay off someone's library fees to give them a fresh start.
- Cover outstanding lunch fees at a local school to support children in need.
- Donate unused books to a literacy program, library, or school.
- Drop off books at a Little Free Library in your community to share with others.
- Reconnect with someone by writing a thoughtful letter or message.
- Paint rocks with kind messages and leave them around town for others to find.
- Make care bags with hygiene products, socks, and essentials to hand out to people in need.
- Leave quarters at a laundromat to make someone's day easier.
- Give a generous tip to a service worker to show your appreciation.



FOOD BANK

A food bank negotiates and acquires semi-trucks of food and delivers them to local food programs based on their program size

Your donations support the purchase and delivery of foods to the region served by the food bank



FOOD PANTRY

Supplied with food from the food bank and other local donations, a food pantry distributes food to individuals and families.

Your donations directly support the purchase of food and the operating expenses of the food pantry



FEEDING AMERICA, FOOD BANK, PANTRY How it Works

Local food pantries (Pantry for Adair County), food banks (The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri), and Feeding America are all parts of a network working together to address hunger and food insecurity in communities, though they operate at different levels and serve different roles.

Food banks are large-scale, centralized facilities that collect, store, and distribute food to a network of smaller organizations, including local food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. Food banks receive food donations from various sources, including food manufacturers, retailers, government programs (like USDA donations), and individuals. They store these donations in bulk and then redistribute them to local agencies that provide direct assistance to people in need.

Feeding America is a national nonprofit organization that supports and coordinates the work of food banks

across the U.S. It works to alleviate hunger through advocacy, awareness, and its vast network of food banks and partners. The organization provides resources, funding, food sourcing, and logistical support to help local communities combat food insecurity. Feeding America helps food banks access food at scale through donations, government programs, and partnerships with corporations. They also conduct research to understand food insecurity trends, advocate for policy change, and provide training and resources to food banks to improve their efficiency and reach.

The Pantry for Adair County is a local, community-based food pantry that provides food directly to individuals and families in need. PAC receives weekly deliveries from The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri to distribute to food insecure families in Adair County. Donations made to PAC are used to supplement what we can provide to families each week.

Kraft Heinz

Food Recovery Program

Special thanks to Kraft Heinz for their generous donations of bacon, lunch meat and more! As a member of the Kirksville community, Kraft has been an amazing partner to the Pantry for Adair County (PAC) by providing generous food donations and making PAC the beneficiary of their Bologna Fest T-shirt Sales. Thanks to Kraft for helping us help our community.

Did you know that the Pantry of Adair County benefits from our local food recovery program that is designed to prevent surplus food from being thrown away? Locally, PAC receives donations from Casey's (Baltimore), Dollar General (Kirksville), Dollar General (La Plata), Hy-Vee, and Walmart. Our dedicated volunteers pick up food from these retailers and deliver it to the pantry for distribution. This not only helps our neighbors in need, but also helps divert perishable food from our local landfills.



I WANT TO KEEP THE PANTRY FOR ADAIR COUNTY STRONG FOR MY COMMUNITY!

Yes! PAC can count on me at this critical time! Enclosed is my gift of:

Annual pledge amount _____ to be donated monthly quarterly semi-annually

One time donation of: \$100 \$300 \$500 other \$ _____

Enclosed is my check payable to **PANTRY FOR ADAIR COUNTY**

I prefer to charge my special gift: VISA MASTERCARD AMERICAN EXPRESS

Credit card numb_ expiration date _____ CVV _____

Name _____ email _____

Address _____ city/state/zip _____

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE

1. Complete and return the response form and mail to
PAC • PO Box 580,
Kirksville, MO 63501
2. Visit us online at
pacfood.org to make your gift.
3. Drop your donation off at the
Pantry at
2012 S. Halliburton • Kirksville.
4. Scan one of the QR Codes using
your smartphone's camera app.



SOUPer Bowl

SOUPer Bowl is one of the largest annual fundraisers that the Pantry for Adair County runs. It coincides with the “big game” and runs from January 12 – February 13. Last year we raised over \$6800 in cash and over 3,765 cans of soup. Winter is the perfect time to put soup in our food packs and this fundraiser is a great opportunity for people to celebrate the big game AND help their community!

Christmas Blessing Boxes 2024

Again this year, the Pantry for Adair County (PAC) will be distributing Blessing Boxes for Christmas. The 2024 box will include cinnamon drink mix, biscuit mix, gravy mix, sausage patties, eggs, cuties oranges, jam and butter. It provides all the fixings for a delicious Christmas breakfast. Our goal is to have 575 boxes for distribution from December 3rd thru December 20th, or until all have been distributed. It's not too late to contribute to the Blessing Box!

Looking Forward

January/February 2025

Souper Bowl - January 12-February 13

April 2025

Easter Food Drive

May 2025

Second Saturday in May - Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive

July 2025

Happy Birthday America - Birthday Box Drive

September 2025

First Friday - National Food Bank Day

November 2025

Tuesday Before Thanksgiving - Partnership Against Hunger

Tuesday After Thanksgiving - Giving Tuesday

December 2025

Blessing Boxes





PANTRY FOR ADAIR COUNTY

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<https://www.facebook.com/HungerinAdair>

Visit our website at <https://www.pacfood.org/>

WHAT IS PAC?

Pantry for Adair County (PAC) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that relies on the generosity of our community, contributors, and volunteers. PAC provides free food to those who are experiencing food insecurity. We serve residents of Adair County and are a partner agency of The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri, headquartered in Columbia, Missouri. PAC began in 2014 as a mission of six founding churches and has grown into a vision embraced by Adair County residents. PAC evolved from operating out of a mobile pantry truck to an approximately 3,000 sq ft warehouse. The move to the south Halliburton St location took place in 2018. This space includes two stand-alone buildings and walk-in freezer and refrigeration units. The pantry is supported by a Board of Directors, a pantry manager, and a dedicated and enthusiastic group of volunteers.