

The amazing group of volunteers who work tirelessly for Bread of Life Ministry and Mobile Food Pantry have this in common: a desire to serve their friends and neighbors so they do not go to bed hungry.

The Bread of Life Ministry (BOL) and the Mobile Food Pantry (MFP) serve clients on a monthly and twice-monthly basis, respectively. This year, our steadfast partners, in no particular order, include Hunters for the Hungry (over 800 pounds of meat this year), Scottsville Elementary School (yearly Thanksgiving food drive), the James River Brewery (ongoing collection of funds on site) and Jaunt, whose driver delivers to more than 30 seniors at the Esmont Senior Center.

Our church backbone, sustaining us year in and year out, is comprised of the congregations from St. George's Catholic, St. Anne's Episcopal, Scottsville United Methodist, Scottsville Baptist, and Scottsville Presbyterian. Atlee Church picks up bread donated by the Great Harvest Bread Co. for delivery to the Mobile Food Pantry recipients.

The Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, provides administrative and distribution support, and delivers food free of charge for the Mobile Food Pantry and at massively reduced prices for Bread of Life.

Having been duly authorized by the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (Charlottesville Food Bank), we are able to collect food from that reached the "sell by date" from our local Food Lion. Every day, repeat: every day, our volunteers pick up meat, produce and bakery goods that would otherwise be discarded. Freezers donated by and housed at the Episcopal Church allow us to save the items picked up from the Food Lion for the next Bread of Life or Mobile Food Pantry distribution. Additionally, the food picked up at Food Lion allows us to offer after-school snacks and take-home snacks to many children at B.F. Yancey. Food Lion also provides us with the hundreds of "Hunger Boxes" generously donated by patrons each holiday season. The Scottsville ABC store's food drive netted an additional five full boxes of food!

We continue to be grateful to Nancy Arllen for handling the paperwork securing an ExxonMobil Grant for \$500 quarterly – and to Berne Stober who consults for Exxon Mobil and makes us eligible for the grant and Vera Stober whose volunteer hours fulfilled the grant requirements.

And gratitude goes to our anonymous donor for a magnificent beef steer, providing a freezer-full of high quality, exceptionally delicious grass-fed beef this coming spring.

And of course, nothing would happen without the continuous support of our volunteers. From this tiny community, we are talking thousands of hours. Thousands. Some volunteers put in time every day. Others, once a month. Some, once a quarter. All doing what they can - and in the end we get an enormous amount done. We average 80+ recorded hours for each Bread of Life distribution. Mobile Food Pantry averages exceed 180 hours each month. That does not begin to include meetings, phone calls, and emails our volunteers don't even think about. Nobody is reimbursed for gas money – to delivery to homes or schools or to make trips to Charlottesville. Nobody is reimbursed by anything tangible. THANK YOU!

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Originally a monthly distribution to 48 families, Bread of Life was started more than 20 years ago by local churches. Church volunteers picked up food at the Blue Ridge Area food bank in Charlottesville, supplementing meager supplies with donations from congregants. Several years ago, Mobile Pantry Program, or Mobile Food Pantry, supported by Feeding America, rolled into our area, and "folded under" the existing Bread of Life Ministry. You may have seen, or helped unload, the big truck parked at the Scottsville Farmers Market. Additionally, Jaunt and Jefferson Area Board for Aging deliver food provided by the MFP program to 30 to 35 seniors at the

Esmont Senior Center. Daily pick-ups from Food Lion may be taken to B. F. Yancey to supplement snacks and food for the after school program. A group of volunteers delivers food to several families who are unable to pick up food.

#### “HOW CAN I HELP?”

Alessandra Cortese de Bosis explains: Every month, BOL and MFP volunteers inventory the items from previous month, order foods, unload hundreds of pounds of food from the Food Bank truck, populate the food pantry, pick up produce, unload the produce, set up the tables for bagging, prepare 180 double bags (each client gets two bagfuls), cart the stored food from the pantry to the tables and set it up so as to make it faster for the baggers, bag the food in the 180 neatly prepared bags, liaise with their church to round up volunteers, offer warm coffee and pastries before distribution, maintain the paperwork and prepare reports (shorthand for “deal with the daunting amount of bureaucracy that this wonderful endeavor requires”), set some 90+ chairs out for our clients, set up the tables, welcome our clients with a smile, distribute registration sheets, register each client, cart food to car for each client, deliver to home-bound clients, and after distribution, when all clients are gone, re-stack chairs, fold and put away tables to set room as if nothing had happened.

#### RE-CAPPING 2015

We distributed an amazing amount of food to many people and households. Obviously if a person came each month, they would count as “12”. But do the math! It’s outstanding what we’ve done in our community!

#### Mobile Food Pantry

Total households distributions: 4, 739 (obviously sometimes one household received a distribution each month, counted as 12 distributions)

Total individuals over 60 served	2,261
Total individuals between 19-59	4,202
Total individuals between 0-18	2,449

In 2015, at the Scottsville site alone, the Mobile Food Pantry distributed 297,241 pounds of food.

#### BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRY

Total Elderly Served (65 & Over)	360
Total Adults Served (19-64)	947
Total Children Served (18 & Under)	436
Total Individuals Served (Elderly + Children + Adults):	1,749
Total Households Served	815

With more than 80 recorded volunteer hours for each Bread of Life Ministry distribution, we’re looking at more than 1,000 hours of service each year. Mobile Food Pantry volunteer hours, recorded, came to 2,182 hours. And that doesn’t include meetings, phone calls, emails - and unrecorded time. No one is reimbursed gas money for home delivery or pick-ups. No one is paid. It’s just done.

On a personal note, this is my last Bread of Life and Mobile Food Pantry newsletter. I’ve worked with Bread of Life, in one capacity or another, since 1998. Each year, whatever my tasks, I’ve found it rewarding - both to be of service to my neighbors, and to work with wonderful people. I’ve moved out of state, and will be handing off my various responsibilities to others. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who allowed me to serve, and who have served with me. Blessings on you all. Laurel Greene

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