

BOUNTY ON THE BRICKS / BOUNTY IN THE PANTRIES

IMPACT SUMMARY: 2013 – 2016

"I know what it's like – I was hungry as a child. But I have plenty now and I want to share."

– Phyllis Spohn, Coordinator, Somerset Area Food Pantry, Perry County

In 2013, the Athens County Foundation and a dedicated group of volunteers developed a fundraiser to highlight foods grown in southeastern Ohio and raise money to support the local food pantry network. Bounty on the Bricks is a community dinner held at the height of summer on a brick-paved street in Athens, Ohio. The event brings together local chefs, city officials, program sponsors and scores of volunteers to prepare and serve a gourmet meal made with food grown in the region. Bounty on the Bricks has become so popular its 400 seats sell out in less than a day.

To foster greater impact, the Athens County Foundation cultivated a funding partnership with the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation of Nelsonville and Sisters Health Foundation. Each provided a 1:1 match to funds raised through the Bounty on the Bricks event. With this support, \$315,000 has been raised over the last four years to create a new grant program, Bounty in the Pantries, benefiting food pantries throughout southeastern Ohio. To date, Bounty in the Pantries, administered by the Athens County Foundation, has provided a total of 127 grants to 50 organizations to increase the capacity of the Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank and Kitchen and its food pantry network – reaching approximately 30,000 low-income residents monthly.

Food pantries perform a vital service in southeastern Ohio where high rates of poverty, inadequate transportation and, in some cases, a lack of grocery stores exacerbates food insecurity. According to Food Nutrition Division Director Katie Schmitzer, the Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank and Kitchen has seen a 40 percent increase in demand since 2010 and "seniors, including seniors raising their grandchildren, are among the fastest growing population of food insecure households. Bounty in the Pantries is key to our operations and our network of food pantries who are providing direct service to struggling families."



Organizations Supported by Bounty in the Pantries Funding, 2013-2016

Athens Catholic Community Food Pantry
Athens County Food Pantry
Basic Needs Ministry
Belpre Church Of Christ
Bethel Ridge Food Pantry
Beverly Waterford Food Pantry
Bishopville Church of Christ Food Pantry
C.A.R.E. United Methodist Outreach, Inc.
Clearing House Assistance Program
First Congregational Church Community Food Pantry
Feed My Sheep Food Pantry
The First Baptist Church of Nelsonville
The Food Program and Clothesline of Jackson
Golden Harvest Food Pantry
Hopewell/Madison Choice Pantry
House of Hope - Washington
Jesus in the Hills Food Pantry
Laurelville Community Food Pantry
Living Word Ministries Food Pantry
Longstreth Food Pantry
Lutheran Social Services Mobile Food Pantry
Marietta Church of God Food Pantry
Marietta Community Food Pantry Monday Lunch
Morgan County United Ministries
My Brother's Place
Nelsonville Food Cupboard
Newport Community Food Pantry
New Lexington Food Pantry (PEAP)
New Matamoras Food Pantry
Oak Hill Food Pantry
The Plains UMC Helping Hands Food Pantry
River of Life Care Closet
Rutland Care Closet
St. Francis Food Pantry
St. Paul and Christ the King Church
St. Vincent de Paul Society, Logan
St. Vincent de Paul Perry County Conference
Salvation Army- Athens
Shepherd of the Valley United Brethren in Christ
Silver Run Food Pantry
Smith Chapel Food and Clothing Mission
Somerset Area Food Pantry
Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank and Kitchen
SE Perry Food Pantry, Corning
Thornville Food Pantry
TLC Ministries
Torch UMC Feed My Sheep
Tri-County Food Pantry
Truth (Agape) Food Pantry
3-C Food Pantry, Decatur Community Association

Bounty in the Pantries also invested directly in the Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank and Kitchen, providing support to help purchase a walk-in freezer and cooler, along with expanding the agency's new Food Purchase Program.

"It was a tremendous help! The freezer allowed us to purchase more nutritious items. People really want ground beef, ground chicken – things they can prepare for their family."

Jill Doose, Coordinator, Athens County Food Pantry, Athens County

"This grant paid for about a third of our emergency generator and then community groups pitched in for the rest. Now we don't have to worry about food spoiling when the power goes out."

Bruce Kelbaugh, Coordinator, Decatur Community Association 3-C Food Pantry, Washington County

"The people tell us how much they need this help. It gets to my heart – I can't see people going hungry."

Sue Brickles, Coordinator, Silver Run Food Pantry, Meigs County

"Having the infrastructure in place is key," says Katie Schmitzer. "We can't do without it, just as it's been key for the pantries to get more refrigerated storage and have more space for fresh produce." Schmitzer also reflected on the value of the Food Purchase Program. "The purchase program is an easy way for pantries to spend less time sourcing food and it also helps support other initiatives like the agency relations position."

Bounty in the Pantries Investments by County, 2013 – 2016

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| Athens (26 investments) | \$52,824 |
| Jackson (16 investments) | \$41,178 |
| Meigs (14 investments) | \$40,843 |
| Washington (21 investments) | \$36,749 |
| Morgan (10 investments) | \$29,064 |
| Vinton (10 investments) | \$28,930 |
| Perry (15 investments) | \$25,342 |
| Hocking (13 investments) | \$20,070 |

All counties benefited from capacity enhancement grants totaling \$40,000 made to the Southeastern Ohio Regional Food Bank and Kitchen.



"These grants are a life saver!" says Dannie Devol, Coordinator of the Smith Chapel Food and Clothing Mission, Hocking County. At the age of 91, Devol oversees a team of volunteers that distribute emergency food twice a week in Logan, Ohio. Up until a few years ago, this required setting up six tents each time. But now, thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Bounty in the Pantries program, "we have a beautiful, 75-foot aluminum canopy that keeps the food, our volunteers and our visitors under cover and out of the bad weather."

More recently, the money raised through Bounty on the Bricks has helped this food pantry purchase extra food. "When we ran out of peanut butter, we were able to purchase more at the Southeastern Ohio Food Bank for a quarter the regular price," says Devol. "It really did come in handy at the right time!"

