

Harvest of Hope Food Pantry – October 1, 2016

I suppose that the first place we all heard the word “BLESSED” was in Sunday School in what we call the “Beatitudes”, although we probably did not understand what it meant. However, as we have grown up we have come to understand that it means “happy” or “prosperous.” Today, we hear people say, “Have a blessed Day.” And we assume that it means have a happy or good day. At the food pantry, people that we help say, “Have a blessed Day.” I do not do much shopping, but several of the cashiers at Food Lion say, “Have a blessed day,” after we check out. That is the same as saying, “Have a good day, a happy day or a prosperous day.”

We, at Harvest of Hope Food Pantry, have been blessed. We are blessed. We are blessed by those individuals, and churches that provide financial support on a regular basis. That support is what keeps us operating on an ongoing basis. It is true that if we had more funds we could obtain more food, but we truly appreciate every person, church, and business that helps us. We recently applied for a grant which we have not yet received. We had to have a letter from Second Harvest of South Georgia stating that we were in good standing with them. In that letter, it was stated that since January 2014, we had procured 250,000 pounds of food. We have been able to do this because of you. Thanks!

We have been and are blessed by the local Food Lion. They bless us daily with goods from the dairy, meat, deli, and produce departments. I know that some of you shop at other grocery stores, but, please, give Food Lion a chance. They surely help us. We thank the Americus Food Lion store.

In celebration of Feeding America’s® Hunger Action Month™, Food Lion participates by assisting approximately 39 food pantries in a 10-state area with their “The Great Pantry Makeover.” We were nominated by Second Harvest of South Georgia to be a part of this “Great Pantry Makeover.” On September 29th, we received an approximate \$3000 food donation as a part of this program. Yes, we are blessed.

We are blessed during the growing seasons by local farmers who donate on a regular basis to Harvest of Hope Food Pantry. This enables us to provide fresh produce to the people we serve. We thank you.

Recently, we were blessed by Wells Fargo Bank who awarded us with a \$1000 grant which helps us acquire food to better serve our clients. Grants always help us supplement the food we give out. We truly appreciate this grant.

We recently received a donation of chicken from AS Processing, LLC, in Americus, eight pallets of things and mixed cuts of chicken which is temporarily stored at Georgia Cold Storage until our new freezer is ready. What a blessing that is and will be. We are thankful for this generous gift and also thankful to Georgia Cold Storage for willingly storing it for us.

Let me say this: Harvest of Hope Food Pantry has been blessed as you can see. We have been blessed in order that we can be a blessing to the people we serve. That is the only reason that we have been so blessed. Hopefully the blessings will continue so that we can continue to be a blessing to each individual and family we serve. We pray God’s blessings on you that we can continue to be a blessing to others. Also, a blessing to our clients is our new and much more efficient way in which they enter the building and a much more streamlined way in which they are served. It is now a much faster way of serving our clients.

We are also blessed by the volunteers who work to make it possible for us to minister to the people of the Americus/Sumter County community. If you would like to volunteer, we always need volunteers. Come to the food pantry at 606 McGarrah Street on Mondays between 7:00 and 10:30 A.M. or Tuesdays between 7:00 and 11:15 A.M. and see what is expected of our volunteers. You can be a blessing to Harvest of Hope as well as a blessing to the people we serve.

The Board of Directors, at their August meeting, welcomed its newest member to the Board. Keith Parks has been an important member of the volunteer team for a long time as an interviewer. He is currently the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Americus. We appreciate his interest in Harvest of Hope and his willingness to serve in this capacity. We are blessed.

Sonny Pinckard

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Executive Director