

## Harvest of Hope Food Pantry – January 2014 Newsletter

My wish for each of you is a very good New Year. That is our hope for the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry for 2014. We opened the doors of the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry in June, 2013, not knowing what to expect. We had preregistered 163 families in May. We served 250 families in June. We have been operating now for seven months and we have watched the number of families we have served grow each month. In December we gave food to 544 families (that includes 1408 individuals). Just over 100 volunteers worked the month of December.

In December we distributed food on December 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> instead of our regular distribution times because I wanted the families to have food for Christmas dinner. We consider the distribution a success based on the positive feedback from the families and their praise to God for helping them. We also were able to minister to the spiritual needs that several of the individuals had. I wish I could share with you some of the stories of people we have been able to minister to.

We have the best group of volunteers of any organization I have ever been associated with. We could not provide the ministry we provide were it not for them. I thank God for each of them. We consider our ministry in 2013 a success because of them.

I want to thank each of you for your support during 2013. I thank you for your prayers, your donation of time, as well as your donations of food and money. You have made our success possible. Without you we would not have a ministry. I would also like to say that we need your continued support for 2014. We have watched our distribution of food grow in 2013 and we do not know what to expect as we begin 2014. With so many changes in the economic situation, we do not know what to expect but we do know that we will need your continued support each month. With January 2014, we will revert back to our regular distribution schedule, serving each Tuesday morning of the month except for 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays. You are welcome to visit on any occasion.

We need for you to pray for Harvest of Hope Food Pantry but we also know from the Bible that we need to put feet to our prayers. Pray for us each day. We need for you to collect food, individually, through your Sunday School classes, your Bible study groups, your civic organizations, food drives. Food collected enables us to provide a larger variety of food to the families we serve. We also need your continued monetary support. Monetary donations enable us to acquire more food from Second Harvest of South Georgia in Albany. We also need a few larger donations which will enable us to retire the debt we have on our building.

I appreciate each of you because whatever success we have had is due to your support because without you we would not be able to perform this ministry. Whether you volunteer your time or donate food or money, we are all in this ministry together. I am reminded over and over that Jesus said that in feeding the hungry, we are ministering unto Him. As we minister through Harvest of Hope Food Pantry, we are ministering in your name.

Have a Blessed New Year – 2014,

Sonny Pinckard  
Executive Director