

## Harvest of Hope Food Pantry – February 28, 2014 Newsletter

February: Wow! It came and disappeared. I realize that February is a short month, but it seemed that the month was composed of Mondays and Tuesdays with little time in-between them.

But God is faithful. Each Monday, as we pack, there are generally ten to twelve volunteers there to work. On Tuesday, as we give out the food, there are generally about twenty-five individuals there who volunteer their time and energy. God is faithful to provide volunteers. If for some reason a scheduled volunteer is unable to work because of something that comes up at the last minute, it seems that God sends someone who says, "I came to volunteer." God provides. That we experience every week. As our client base has increased, so has our support increased. God has provided everything we need, though not everything we wanted. But that is His promise. We started Harvest of Hope as a faith ministry and we continue to be a faith ministry. Being a faith ministry means that we trust God to provide. But God never intended for us to sit back and simply wait on Him to simply pour out everything we need. I do not have any doubt that He could, as He provided the manna and quail for the children of Israel. However, with James, I believe that faith without works is dead. Therefore we continue to reach out to churches, businesses and individuals to collect food and to make monetary donations to help us in this ministry. Paul says in Corinthians that out of our abundance we provide for the needs of others and that out of their abundance they provide for our need. That is God's plan. God loves a cheerful giver.

As Executive Director, one aspect of this ministry that I enjoy is interacting with the people we minister to each week. It is amazing to see the joy on the faces of so many individuals who receive food. It is a real blessing for me because, as I go around town, many of the people go out of their way to speak to me.

Unemployment in Sumter County is very high as is the number of individuals that are below the poverty level. The number of individuals who are unemployed, the ending of unemployment benefits for many individuals, as well as cutbacks in food stamps has made the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry an even more important ministry in Sumter County.

In January, three of our Board of Directors members rotated off of the Harvest of Hope Food Pantry board. We thank John Morgan, Lodenia Coleman, and Julio Barrios for their faithful service on the board. At the same time, we welcome Jan Olek, Edna Laster, and Reyna Ramirez to our board. Jan is our volunteer coordinator and has worked for Xerox Corporation for many years and continues to work for them. Edna worked at South GA Tech for many years in administrative positions. Reyna works for the State of Georgia at Sumter County DFCS and is a cheer leading coach with Sumter Parks and Recreation. We look forward to having them work with us.

Thank you, everyone! Harvest of Hope Food Pantry has been able to accomplish what it has done because of the prayers and support of each of you. Please continue to pray for "your food pantry." And please continue to support us with donations of food and money. Harvest of Hope Food Pantry truly belongs to the people of Sumter County as it seeks to serve the needs of the people.

Sonny Pinckard  
Executive Director