

2019

SSCRC Food Pantry
Mid-Year Report



SSCRC Food Pantry: 2019 Mid-Year Report

The SSCRC Food Pantry aims to reduce food insecurity in our community in an environment that encourages relationships among food pantry participants, volunteers, the congregation, and the broader community. We aim to do this in a way that recognizes that God created us as individuals and as a church to live in community and to bring the justice, mercy, and shalom of God to our community with the help of the Holy Spirit.

This report provides an overview of the year-to-date activities, services, and costs of the SSCRC Food Pantry in 2019. The summaries below highlight activities; participant household data; and food, hygiene, and cost data trends. The following pages provide a more detailed look at participant household data and food, hygiene, and cost data trend, offering deeper insight into the outcomes of our efforts to reduce food insecurity in our community.

Activity Highlights

- In February, we held a volunteer appreciation potluck dinner. Several of our volunteers from Arcola Towers attended, which provided a delightful opportunity to get to know them better and to share fellowship with them.
- In February, the food pantry began a new partnership with Community Food Rescue/MANNA to provide frozen meat to food pantry participants. So far we have distributed approximately 500 lbs. of frozen meat to participants through this partnership.
- In January and March the food pantry received support from Washington Christian Academy and Forcey Christian School in the form of hygiene drives. These drives were so successful that we are still distributing products we collected during these drives.
- In April a representative from the Jewish Council for the Aging attended the food pantry distribution to share information with participants about Medicare as well as other medical assistance programs available in Montgomery County.
- SSCRC, including the food pantry, sponsored a booth at Kemp Mill Community Day, enabling us to share information about the food pantry ministry with our church neighborhood.
- The CAFB is starting a Community Leadership Council and asked us to nominate a participant who could serve to help guide the food bank's work. We talked to a participant, who is excited about the opportunity, and have sent our nomination to the CAFB.

Participant Data Trends

- To date in 2019, the food pantry has experienced a sudden spike in participation, with an average of 89 households attending per month. This is up from 75 households per month in 2018.
- So far in 2019, 47 percent of food pantry visits were by large households (5 or more members), which is similar to the 48 percent seen in 2018.
- The pantry continued to serve households near the church, with 43 percent of households living in the church zip code and another 36 percent living in adjacent zip codes.

- The food pantry continues to experience turnover in participating households. To date in 2019, 211 unique household visited the food pantry. Of these households, 78 came to the food pantry for the first time. On average, households have attended the food pantry 2.5 times in 2019.

Food, Hygiene Item, and Cost Data Trends

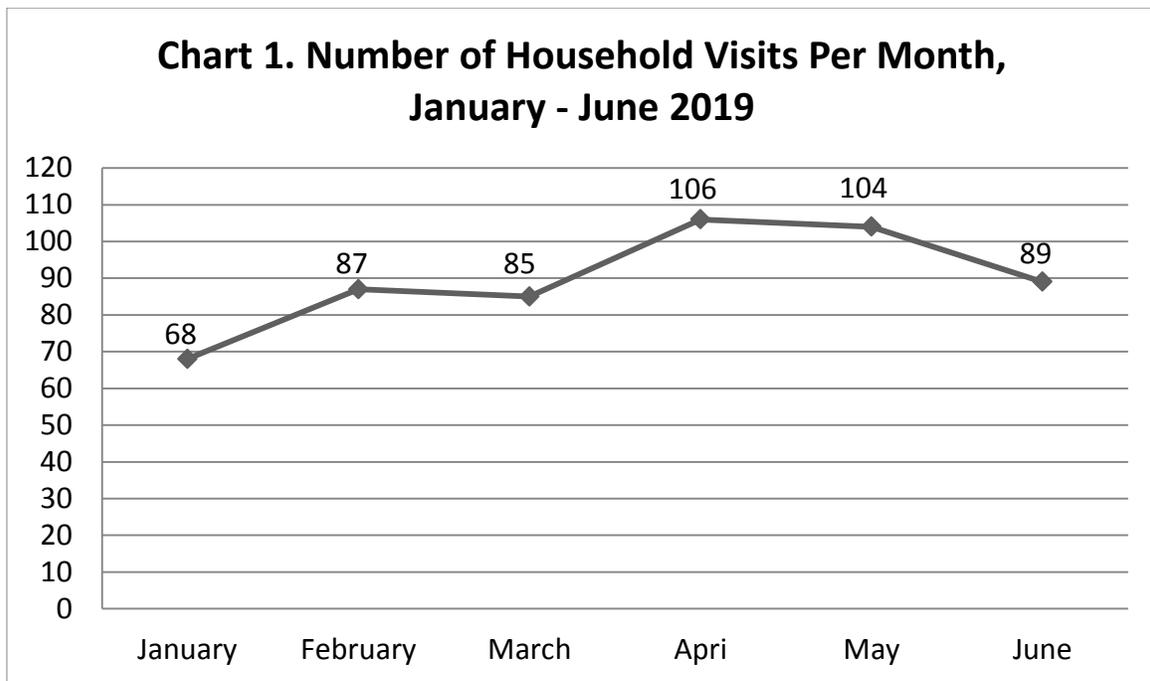
- To date in 2019 we have received 15,216 pounds of food from the CAFB and approximately 2,900 lbs. of food donations from Manna, Yah Yehuda, and private donors. Our total food cost to date is \$2,900.
- On average, we have spent \$5.50 on food per household visit in 2019.
- The food pantry offered between 3-5 hygiene items per month from January – June 2019. Hygiene items were collected through drives and purchased using a designated gift to the Food Pantry Fund. Total cost for hygiene items to date in 2019 is \$150, or approximately \$0.28 per household visit.

Participant Household Data

From January - June 2019 the food pantry served an average of 89 households per month. This added up to 539 household visits to date in 2019. This represents a sharp increase in participation compared to the same time period in 2018 (Table 1). However, as shown in Chart 1, participation was particularly low from January – March, but increased from April – June.

Table 1. Food Pantry Visits, 2018 and 2019

	2018		2019		Change 2018 - 2019	
	Total	Monthly Average	Total	Monthly Average	Change	Monthly Average
Total Visits	423	71	539	89	+116	+18



The size of the households that we serve affects the amount of food that we order and distribute each month. We define a large household as one for which a food pantry participant reports at least five people living in the household. Large households are permitted to take double the amount of most food items. In the first half of 2019, 47 percent of food pantry visits were by large households. This is similar to the same period in 2018, when 49 percent of visits were by large households.

Our aim is to be a food pantry that serves primarily people who live in the community near church. However, we do not require people to live in a particular zip code or set of zip codes to receive food. Table 2, below, shows that 46 percent food pantry visits to date were by households that lived in the church’s 20902 zip code. Another 36 percent of visits were by households from zip codes adjacent to the church’s zip code. Only 21 percent were from other zip codes. Households that live outside our church zip code could work in our church zip code or have children attending Arcola Elementary school.

Table 2. Food Pantry Visits by Zip Code, January – June 2019

	#	%
Church	233	43%
Adjacent*	190	36%
Other	116	21%
Total	539	100%

*20901, 20904, 20906, 20910, 20895

Many households that come to the food pantry come multiple times. To understand participation better it is helpful to know how many different, or unduplicated, households came. While adding households served each month gives the total number of food pantry visits, looking at unduplicated households offers insight into how broadly the food pantry impacts the community.

Table 3, below, compares the number of total food pantry visits to unduplicated visits and shows the number of new households that came to the food pantry. To date in 2019, the food pantry served 211 unduplicated households; 78 of these households came to the food pantry for the first time. This is sharp increase from 2018, when 59 new households came to the food pantry during the same time period.

Table 3. Total Visits, Unduplicated Households, and New Households in 2019

	2019
Total Food Pantry Visits	539
Unduplicated Households	211
New Households	78

Food, Hygiene Item, and Cost Data

The food we distribute at the food pantry comes primarily from the Capital Area Food Bank (CAFB). We also accept donations, and have received significant donations this year from Yah Yehuda pantry and Manna/Community Food Rescue. As shown in Table 4, to date in 2019 we received over 15,200 pounds of food from CAFB for a cost of \$2,900. We've also received approximately 2,890 lbs. of donated food. On average, this food cost us \$0.16 per pound.

The food we receive from the CAFB is priced in three different ways:

- Produce and bread are free. The amount of produce and bread available varies from month to month.
- Foods donated to the CAFB cost us \$0.19 per pound. The shelf stable items we receive are usually from this category.
- Foods purchased by the CAFB vary in cost to us but are more than \$0.19 per pound. We occasionally select items from this category to fill a need that we cannot fill from the donated foods. We regularly use this option to purchase rice, milk, peanut butter, pasta, and oil when they not available at the lower \$0.19 per pound.

Table 4. Food Costs, January – June 2019

	Pounds Received	Cost	Cost per Pound
Shelf Stable	11,194	\$2,900	\$0.26
Produce	3,442	\$0	\$0.00
Bread	426	\$0	\$0.00
Dairy	154	\$0	\$0.00
Donations*	2,889	\$0	\$0.00
Total	18,105	\$2,900	\$0.16

*Estimated

Table 5, below, shows the average food cost per household visit. On average, we spent about \$5.79 per visit from January – June 2019. This is down from \$5.79 per pound during the same time in 2018.

**Table 5. Food Cost per Household Visit,
January – June 2019**

a. Food Cost January – June 2019	\$2,900
b. Total Number of Household Visits	539
Average Food Cost per Visit (a/b)	\$5.50

The food pantry also provides hygiene items. Items are either purchased or donated through community hygiene drives. So far in 2019, we have distributed three – five hygiene items per household each month. The total cost for hygiene items to date in 2019 is \$150, or about \$0.28 per household visit.