



2015 ANNUAL REPORT
For
INTERFAITH FOOD BANK
DBA
THE FOOD BASKET

The annual report is a summary of what has occurred during the year of 2015 in providing food for those with food insecurities in the Clute, Richwood and Lake Jackson zip codes. It includes how monies are spent, where monies come from, how food is distributed, and the community impact. Goals for 2016 and beyond are also included.

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From the Director and Board of The Food Basket

The past year has been an active one for our organization. Please review the statistics and photos in this annual report.

Our theme in 2015 was “Get Fit” because it was a year of transition as we started the year with a relatively new director and a new president. It was a year of challenge as volunteers were down in 2014 and a number of key roles were vacant as we started this year. Some key goals for 2015 that were accomplished:

- Increase the number of volunteers
- Submit grants for large projects
- Increase donations at large events such as Souper Bowl of Caring, County Fair etc.
- Create and manage a budget which balances income and expenditures
- Fill the 2 vacant trustee slots.

We have focused on operating our organization as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The Food Basket provides supplemental food to many of the area’s citizens. We could not do that without the commitment of our volunteers. Volunteers provided more than 2,500 hours of service in 2015. Comparatively, based on a minimal \$7.25 wage, that equates to \$18,000 worth of time donated to serve local residents.

We could not operate without financial support that is critical to us paying our utility bills and purchasing food. Area donors contributed more than \$33,352 to support our organization in 2015. That is less than 2014 but we have increased our donations of food from the local community as well as for the first time from our orchard.

To those of you who are not personally involved I ask that you consider volunteering, and/or financially contributing to The Food Basket.

Michael Rowland
Board President
for The Food Basket Board

Lisa Owsley, MSW
Director – The Food Basket

Mission Statement

Working to put God's Love into action, The Food Basket brings people together to collect and distribute food and as a community provide for those in need.

Vision Mission & Values

Vision Statement

For the Food Basket to become a community which works together to provide physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally for all clients.

Looking back at 2015 – Looking forward to 2016

As an organization we participated in a number of events in 2015 that are worth a review:

Souper Bowl of Caring – volunteers helped to promote sales of more than 1022 bags of prepackaged food at Kroger's. We also received a set amount from HEB during their sales.

Junior Service League Junk Trail – volunteers donated items for our 1st fundraiser event. It was a success but needed additional support and better weather.

UMCOR – donations from a group who traveled to Louisiana on a mission trip brought back 50 boxes of cleaning supplies that were given to our clients with such a thankful heart.

Mission Bells – a college group came and worked in the orchard during their spring break from Wisconsin. They also completed a new shelf unit which was greatly needed.

Servolution – a group from Brazospointe Church came on a Sunday morning to do service – they worked in the orchard preparing for the upcoming irrigation system and best growth for the trees; cleaned the walk-in cooler, and did sorting of food along with learning about what we do.

Relay for Life – as part of this annual event held in Angleton, they have a food drive which we were humbled to receive half of what was donated.

Stamp Out Hunger – an annual event held by the postal service workers union collected food during the May drive of which we were a beneficiary.

Summer help – we had a number of church youth groups come in and do various sorting of food, helping with clients during open hours, cleaning of the building – what a blessing to have these young people give to our ministry.

Volunteer Luncheon – a luncheon to honor our volunteers was held at Wesley FUMC close to the anniversary date of the Food Basket in August. The food was donated by Ho

BASF – celebrating 150 years, gave meals for 150 families split between 4 pantries. We were honored to be included in this gift. They also gave 120# of fertilizer for our garden.

Dow Community Grant and Women Building Community Grant – we applied and had funded 2 grants in 2015 – our irrigation system for the orchard and new refrigerator shelving for our walk-in cooler.

Churches bag rice – several churches did a church wide mission project by bagging rice and pinto beans when we were unable to obtain from the Houston Food Bank.

Community Food Fair – we held our 1st food fair with 3 participating local agencies to promote and give information. In return for our clients visiting with the agencies, they were then able to receive a number of items from the Houston Food Bank truck that brought fresh produce: watermelon, apples, oranges, cabbage, bananas and sliced bread.

Brazoria County Fair Food Pantry Night – working just a 4 hour shift on 2 gates, we obtained 6000# of canned goods given by the community. A true blessing but also a lot of work ahead – much sorting and date checking to be sure of approved date limits.

Associated Builders and Contractors – a generous donation by this organization which led to a conversation of our real needs and who we are serving in our communities. A great conversation.

Thanksgiving Holiday Baskets – as a board we purchased 150 turkeys to give to our client families – a tradition. We also gave a number of extras which were provided by Kroger and partnering churches: flour, sugar, vegetable oil, cranberry sauce, stuffing, potatoes, green beans. We were also able to purchase by special option from the Houston Food Bank some additional food including: cranberry sauce, green beans, macaroni & cheese, and 10# of chicken. All in all we gave roughly 30# of extra food during this holiday.

Thanksgiving Meal – First Christian Church provided a wonderful thanksgiving meal for our clients and volunteers held at Wesley FUMC. What a blessing to sit and share a meal with our clients and volunteers.

Irrigation installation – Boy Scout Troop 325 assisted with guidance to do the installation of the pipes for the irrigation system for the orchard. Roughly 200 feet of pipe was laid and trenches dug by 4 the day before.

Food Drives locally – a number of food drives held during the holiday season were the Food basket was the beneficiary – such a gift.

Mrs. Santa Claus Party – Women Building Community host a baby shower during the holiday season and give diapers, wipes and other baby items to local agencies in which we were a beneficiary.

Share Your Holiday – For the first time, we asked our clients to participate in the Share Your Holiday food drive that the Houston Food Bank (HFB) puts on. Clients needed to call in to register to receive an extra 30# of food from them (HFB) on a designated day. We did need to go to Houston and load on that specific day and give out on that very day – we served 107 registered clients. In addition, we also were able to give

additional food once again from the donations received and to help our clients have food during the closure during the Christmas season for 2 weeks. So in addition to the 30# from HFB, plus their regular shopping experience, we were able to give additional food of about 25# more which included green beans, cranberry sauce, macaroni & cheese along with 10# of chicken and ham.

Cookies with Santa – First Christian Church brought Santa, cookies and treats to visit with our clients and children just before the holiday closure for the Food Basket. Several families came and had pictures as a family with Santa – and heard about the Nativity story from Pastor Cynthia.

We were also gifted with a new **portable scale** which assists our volunteers in weighing all of the donations that come into the food pantry. When there are large heavy donations this scale can be rolled outside to ease the collection process.

The **purchase of 3 Fruit Pickers** – we have the ability to go out to a local home and pick fruit when called with these unique tools that help in protecting the fruit and better for the tree. We look forward to using them in our orchard as well as out in the community when we are called.

As you can see – we participated in many events and hosted many for the benefits of the clients we serve. As we look to 2016, we have plans to host 3 Community Food Fairs, increase our donation numbers for Souper Bowl of Caring, and becoming more visible in the community by invitation to various speaking events, looking to involve additional churches/groups, and to submit new grants for signage and other needed items to help us work more efficiently.

Client Eligibility and Serving sizes

Service Eligibility Determinants

- Client needs to live in Clute, Richwood, or Lake Jackson zip codes
- Proof of income: such as paycheck stub, TANF or CHIP letter of acceptance (as examples)
- Social Security cards for each member of household
- Proof of residency (utility bill, as example)

The average client family –

- Size is 4 ranging from 1 to 11
- Averaged about 24 visits in 2015 even though they are eligible for services once per week

During each visit the average family will receive:

- We use Houston Food Bank's recommended "client choice system" - so the clients shop for the food they want and can decline if not needed.
- Family size determines the amount of food distributed to each client family.
- The average family receives note

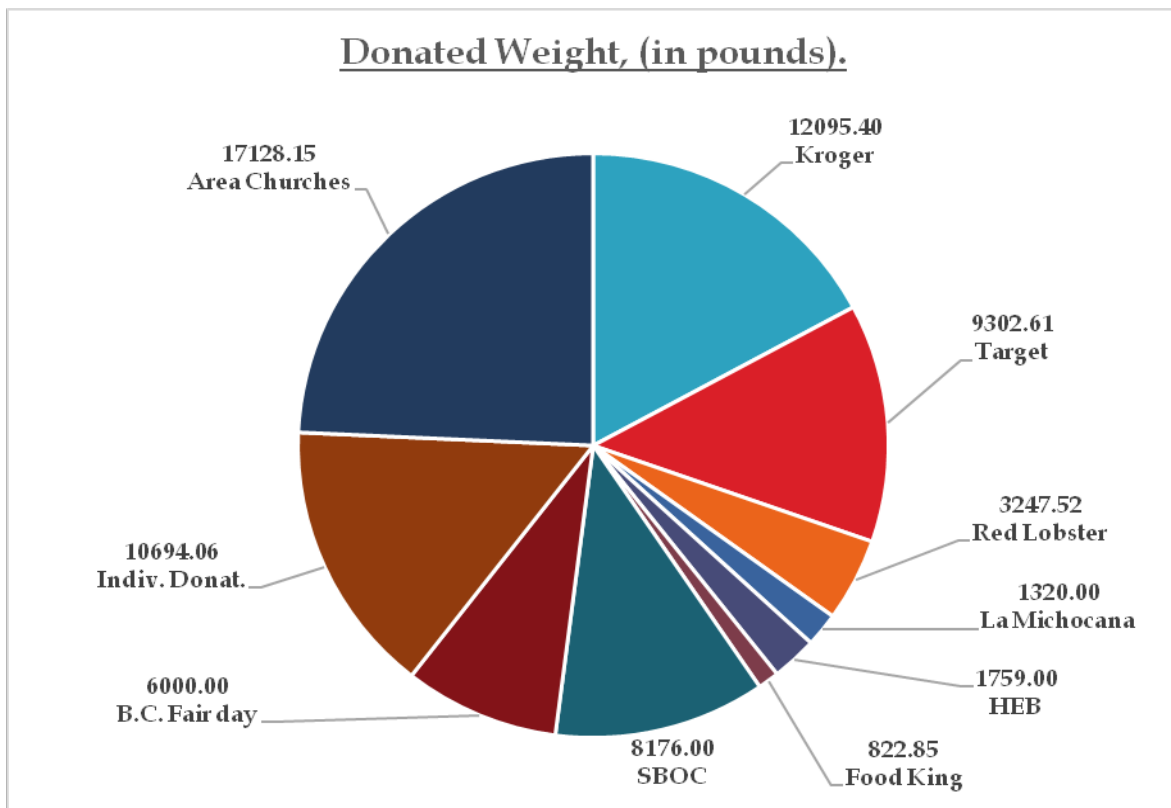
2 lbs of rice	2 lbs of dried beans
4 lbs of frozen meat	
1 loaf of bread	½ dozen of eggs
1 breakfast item (cereal, oatmeal)	1 quart shelf stable milk
1 pasta item (noodles, spaghetti)	1 dessert
3 cans of vegetables	2 cans of fruit
1 can of beans	1 can of soup
1 can of meat (tuna, chicken)	
1 can of tomato product (tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, spaghetti sauce)	
Fresh dairy when available	Fresh produce when available.

The Food Basket's objective is to provide the average family about 2 days of food or about 6 meals for each family member

Donations

In 2015, we were able to decrease the amount of food purchased from the Houston Food Bank. Additionally we were able to plan better for what/when we ordered food based upon previous experience.

Donations from local Retail Agencies have gone up which frees up additional dollars in purchasing power. As well, having additional partnering churches involved has helped in the reduction of foods purchased. The success of reaching out to various organizations and promoting The Food Basket in general all year, has led to additional food drives that have provided large amounts of canned goods thus reducing purchases.



Quantity of Food Distributed and its Sources

The total amount of food provided to the client families in 2015 was approximately 120,000 pounds.

About 50,000 lbs was supplied by The Houston Food Bank. Over 50% of the food provided by the Food Basket was provided locally!

Community Events that contribute to *The Food Basket*

- ✓ Souper Bowl of Caring (January)
- ✓ Stamp Out Hunger (May)
- ✓ Brazoria County Food Pantry Day (October)

Some Organizations Donating During 2015



Elizabet Ney
Elementary



Wesley First UMC

Gladys Polk
Elementary



Jerry's
Food King

*Women
Building
Community*



First Presbyterian
Church Lake Jackson

A.P. Beutel
Elementary



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH – LAKE JACKSON

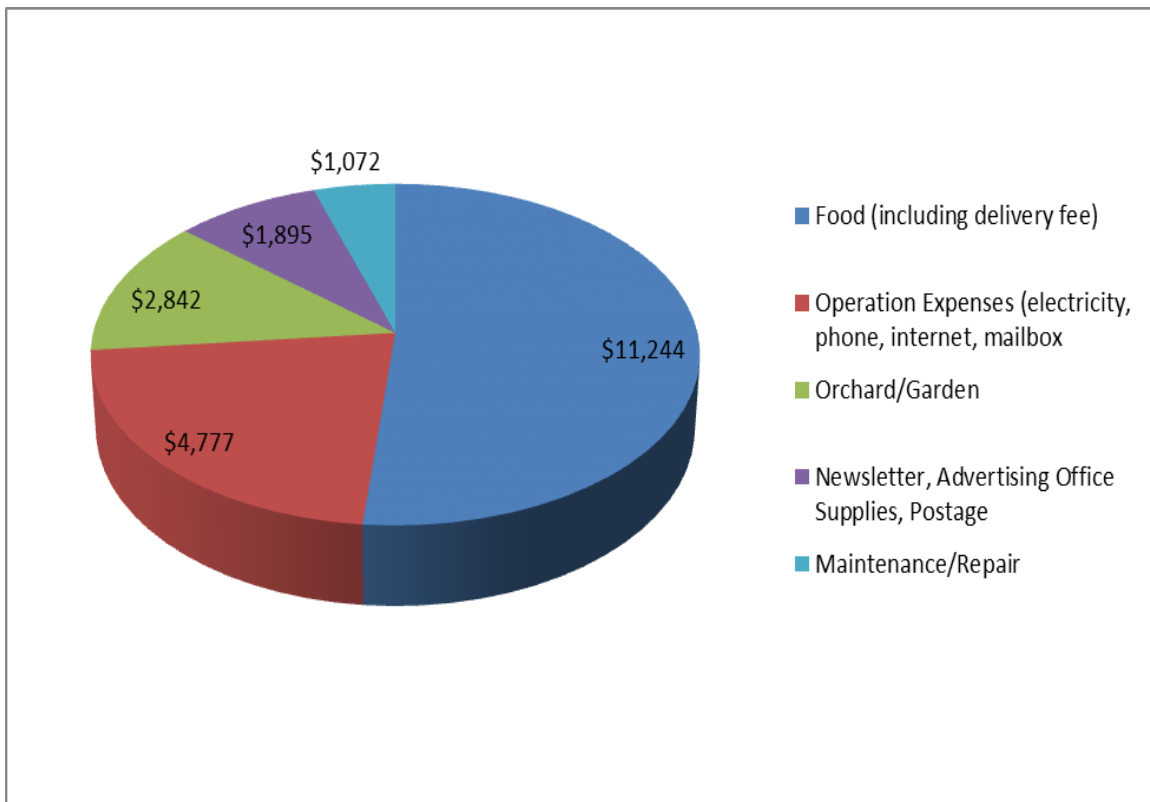
Income and Expenditures

The amount of purchased food was about 50,000 lbs or about 42% of total food given out.

Expenditures in 2015

In 2015 The Food Basket spent a total of \$21,830 (rounded):

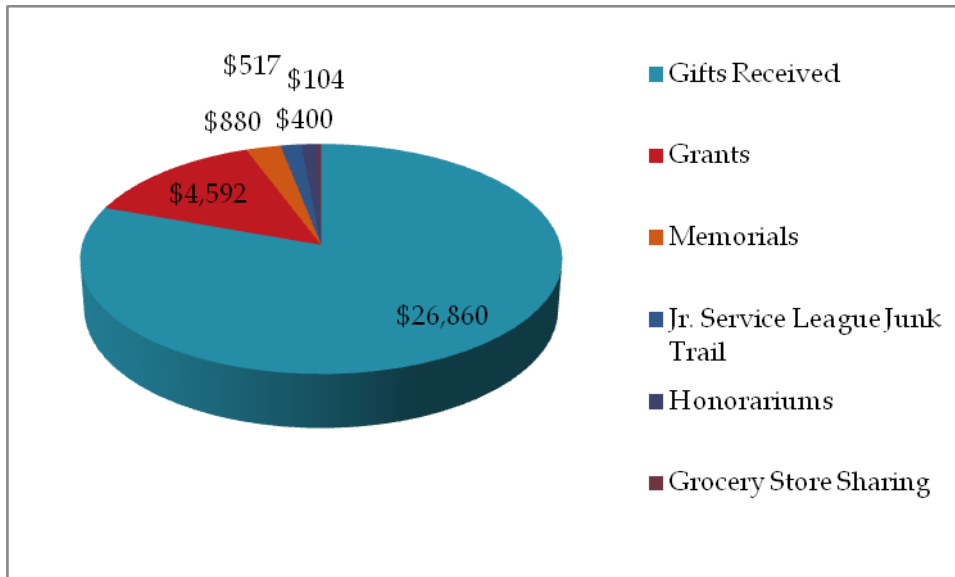
51.5%	\$11,244	Food (including delivery fees)
21.8%	\$ 4,777	Operation Expenses (electricity/phone/internet/mail box)
13.1%	\$ 2,842	Orchard/Garden
08.7%	\$ 1,895	Newsletter/advertising/office supplies/postage/fee
04.9%	\$ 1,072	Maintenance Repair



Income sources in 2015

In 2015, our total income was \$33,353.

80.5%	\$26,860	Gifts Received
13.8%	\$ 4,592	Grants
2.6%	\$ 880	Memorials
1.6 %	\$ 517	Jr. Service League Junk Trail
1.2%	\$ 400	Honorariums
0.3%	\$ 104	Grocery Store Sharing



Volunteer Hours

The total number of volunteer hours in 2015 is estimated to be 2511 Logged hours. There are several positions for which hours are unaccounted.

This equates to:

- 240 man hours during open hours per month
- 40 man hours in picking up retail donations per month
- 15 man hours in routine maintenance, data reporting, additional pick-ups, and administrative duties.

Some of the numerous volunteer opportunities at the Food Basket are:

- Shop with a clients during open hours
- Data entry
- Retail agency pick-up
- Work in the garden or orchard
- Write thank you notes
- Fundraising
- Research and apply for grant opportunities
- Network with local agencies

Community Impact

We have identified how we obtain and spend our money. However just as important is that we are changing lives. Highlights we are aware of:

- The Food Basket encouraged attendance at Christmas church services. We provided times and locations of services for churches that faithfully support The Food Basket.
- The Food Basket is working to move persons from receiving food at The Food Basket to giving to the Food Basket and helping others with a “hand up.” One homeless man was “adopted” by a local church. He now has a job and is no longer drawing from The Food Basket. Periodically he comes back to help.
- There are several families working towards improving the lives of their families and only come to us when things are a bit more stretched – such as when a child is sick and the single mother has to stay home.

Number of Client Families served in 2015

The Food Basket served about 175 unique families each month in 2015. Some of these families are long-term clients (have come to the food basket for at least 6months to many years) and some are short-term clients (may attend once or for several months).

In 2015 we have seen fewer unique family units versus 2014. However many of the families are coming to The Food Basket more frequently. In 2014 the average family came about once per month versus 2015 the average was about 2 times per month.

The Food Basket is making a difference one family at a time!