# Our Humble Beginnings

In 2010, it came to the attention of two area Pastors, one from First United Methodist Church and the other from the Cardington Church of the Nazarene, that there was a food deficiency in the Morrow County area and the need to help its families. Thus began the “Cardington Community Food Pantry”, housed in the First United Methodist Church, located at 300 S. Marion Street, Cardington, OH.

More churches were invited to participate in this new ministry and 6 more churches joined us for a total of 8. The local Church participants include:

* Cardington First United Methodist Church
* Center United Methodist Church
* Fairview United Methodist Church
* Cardington Church of the Nazarene
* Gilead Friends Church
* St. John (Windfall) Lutheran Church
* Vineyard Church of Morrow County
* First Baptist Church

(**Note:** We welcome any additional churches who would like to participate and become part of this food pantry mission. Please contact us.)

And our journey begins; our pantry officially opened in August 2010 feeding 30 families a month.

Each year it becomes more and more evident that this pantry is a necessary source for our community, with many families needing our assistance increased.

# The Need Continues to Increase for Food Assistance

Here’s a few data points regarding households in Morrow County:

* Median income is $59,452 per household
* 12,922 households in county (2015-2019)
* 26.8% of the county is at 200% of national poverty level
* 9,253 families in this county qualify for the

200% national poverty level

The Cardington Community Food Pantry has served many households since its humble beginnings and, as you can see below, has increased its assistance over the years:

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| **Year** | **Total Families Served** |
| 2010 | 30 |
| 2015 | 2466 |
| 2020 | 5215 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **2020 Food Pantry Statistics** | **Yearly Total** |
| Total Households Served | 5,215 |
| Total Individuals Served | 15,840 |
| New Families for 2020 | 442 |
| Total Meals Provided | 218,052 |
| Average Cost Per Meal Provided | .11 |
| Average Meals Per Person | 13.77 |
| Average Monthly Families Fed | 309 |

# Capital Campaign

The biggest challenge in operating the food pantry is capacity. Capacity includes areas for the freezers, coolers, non-perishable food storage, delivery area, areas for pre-packing food boxes which are prepared prior to pantry and produce market hours.

Our main supplier for purchasing food is Mid-Ohio Foodbank and with the current market conditions our Nation is experiencing, mitigation funds are being awarded to 501(c)3 charities. This means we can purchase more food for less dollars **IF** we have capacity to manage and store food. Here lies our problem. Our current location has room for only two weeks’ worth of food storage, so we are unable to increase our buying for lack of capacity. With that said, we have obtained donations and grants to purchase a new facility and we expect to begin erecting the new expansion in the next few months as we continue with our efforts in pursuing funds.

**The new building will contain 2,400 square feet providing both a drive-thru pantry and in-store shopping experience at the same time. The projected turnkey cost of this new structure is $120,000.**

Logistics comes at a cost, and we now anticipate incurring approximately $600 a month for expenses such as electric, propane, water, trash pickup, insurance, internet/phone, lawn, snow removal.

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| **Currently, the Cardington Community Food Pantry is feeding 31% of Morrow County. With the move to the new location/building, we look to increase that to 45%.** |

# How You Can Help

In preparation for the construction, the Cardington Community Food Pantry Board gained approval for funding through a local lender. It is our prayer that we can obtain donations and grants to pay off this mortgage as quickly as possible. **Please prayerfully consider making a one-time donation or an on-going donation or pledge for a year or more to help us continue to feed families in Morrow County.**

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| **Gift Plans to Prayerfully Consider** |
| **Monthly Donation** | **Annual Donation** | **Daily****Donation** |
| $ 30 | $ 360 | $ 1.00 |
| $ 40 | $ 480 | $ 1.33 |
| $ 50 | $ 600 | $ 1.67 |
| $ 75 | $ 900 | $ 2.47 |
| $ 100 | $ 1,200 | $ 3.29 |

**Please Consider:**

- The above chart is based on 1 year (or 12 monthly donations).

- Should you desire to spread your gift for a longer period, please note that on your donation.

- Please note on your check “This is for the building pledge”.

- Pledges are not legally binding but are a faithful promise of your intention.
- Every donation/pledge is greatly needed and appreciated to continue the mission of feeding families.

If you would like to donate or pledge, please fill out this information and send to the address below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your donation preference which will allow us to budget accordingly:

( ) Monthly donation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

( ) One-time donation of $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Cardington Community Food Pantry**

**P.O. Box 168**

**Cardington, OH 43315**

**418-408-4201**

**cardingtonfp@yahoo.com**

[**www.cardingtonfoodpantry.org**](http://www.cardingtonfoodpantry.org/)

**New Building Location:**

**308 S Marion St.**

**Cardington, OH 43315**

**“This Institution is an equal opportunity provider.” 122821**



BUILDING & OPERATION DRIVE

**Our Mission Statement:**
*"We are stopping hunger one meal, one family at a time by providing food to those in need with compassion and love - because it's more than just food; it's about how you make people feel!"*



**Our Purpose:**
To provide nutritious food to those it would otherwise be unattainable; to educate families about nutrition and life skills in hopes it improves their lives and our communities as a whole and deliver a welcoming environment filled with love and compassion.