

## Food Center Update

BAFM has served 469 families; or 1215 people through 2011. I don't have readily available to me the number of people who would be classified as seniors. Looking at the people NBCC serviced last month 7 of the 19 families would be classified as seniors.

In 2010 we serviced 608 families, or 1913 people. In 2009 we serviced 680 families or 1916 people.

We spent, on an average, between \$500 and \$600 per month for food. Fortunately we have been able to get several items at no cost from Country Neighbor. But that might change at any minute. We have been blessed over the last several years that we did not have to worry about renting. We have been paying for propane. As noted on the financial report we did receive a refund from Amerigas.

What Where to from here?

1) Close at the end of the year? Possible, it may be part of God's plan that we cease to exist. If we do close at the end of 2011 what do we do with the excess funds? What will be the protocol for informing the families that we are serving? The Salvation Army in Warren has been notified of our current status, as has Country Neighbor.

2) Locate another permanent facility. In July Fred Keener sent out an email to all the members of BAMA asking them to solicit their congregations about a possible permanent location. I've not heard of anything happening on that request. Since last month's meeting I have approached King Brothers. I inquired about renting the facility that we are currently using. The rent is \$300.00 per month plus utilities. The utilities (natural gas and electricity), for last winter, for that facility were approximately \$150.00 per month with minimal electricity in the summer months, but each utility may have a minimum fee. Unfortunately the donations don't come in on a regular basis. We would need to have a commitment from all the participating churches that support us that we would have the funds available when the rent is due and the utilities need paid. And then do we have the funds to purchase food, the reason for our existence.

3) Each church in a geographic area would start their individual food pantry using whatever tax exempt status they choose. Each church would be responsible for purchasing, storing the food, distributing, receiving referrals and or directing individuals to the appropriate pantry (based on geographic location).

Ken Weeks  
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