

1/17/11
CAM Press Release

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More Families Seek Food Assistance

Food for 180,000 meals distributed in 2010.

Branson, MO...During 2010 Christian Action Ministries received 8,194 requests for food assistance from families in Taney County. CAM's food distribution takes place at food pantries in both Branson and Forsyth, as well as a mobile outreach to Bradleyville, Protem, and Reuter on the first Wednesday of each month.

According to CAM Executive Director Pat Davis, "This reflects a 9.2% increase over 2009, which had been up nearly 20% over 2008. The good news is that we've been able to meet this growing demand due to the generous support of our community. Like many of the non-profits in the area, we experienced a decline in contributions from individuals and churches; however, increased donations from local business and foundations, along with higher proceeds from our Gospel Sing-Off, made up the difference. For that we are extremely grateful."

Serving an average of nearly 700 families per month, accounting for approximately 1800 individuals per month, meant that CAM distributed food for about 180,000 meals in 2010. CAM provides families with food for 3 days (9 meals), according to the number of people within the family unit. Additionally, those that qualify can also receive federal commodities, which are distributed at both locations.

In October, CAM also began a mobile outreach to communities in eastern Taney County on the first Wednesday of each month. Davis explained that this effort has had increasing results as more people become aware. "After communicating through the schools and churches in the area, only 28 families took advantage of this service in October. In November and December it grew to over 40 families receiving food. However this month, 67 families took advantage of our mobile outreach. So we are looking at this as a growing resource for outlying families in eastern sections of the county."

People needing assistance can come to the Branson location at 610 South 6th Street, Suite 102 in the lower level, or the Forsyth location at 10275 East Highway 76. The Branson food pantry is open Monday through Friday from Noon until 4 PM. The Forsyth location is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10 AM until 1 PM. Although no one is turned away, people should bring photo identification for all adults, a social security card for all family members, and proof of Taney County residency.

Anyone wishing to donate cash, food, or time, can call Pat Davis at 334-1157 or visit the CAM website at www.christianactionministries.org.

Attachment: Statistics Breakdown