

## A Thanksgiving Story

It is November 17<sup>th</sup>, a cold clear fall morning in Franklin, Ohio. It is the day of the FACS Thanksgiving distribution at the Food Pantry. As I pull into the Pantry parking lot at 9:00 am, I notice there is already a line of at least 100 residents forming at our door and down the ramp. Walking up to our building, I see familiar faces peering out of hat and scarves. Blankets and quilts are wrapped around the people as they huddle together for warmth, waiting for their turkey and bag of holiday foods. I approach our door and ask the people at the front of the line "What time did you get here this morning?" They answered, many with smiles, "About 7:00". Our distribution began at 12 noon.

As I write this, Thanksgiving Day has come and gone. The spirit of Thanksgiving is still quite evident at our Food Pantry. We are thankful to our donors and supporters who provide the resources to make our mission a reality. We are grateful to two Springboro residents who quietly donated \$5000.00 to sponsor our Thanksgiving outreach. We are thankful for the volunteers who arrived at 7:30 that frigid November morning to unload hundreds of cases of frozen turkeys into our Pantry. We are thankful for the volunteers who cheerfully served 300 families and wished them "Happy Thanksgiving." We are grateful for the sweet ladies from a local church who served hot chocolate and coffee to the clients in line.

I am also profoundly thankful for the people we serve. They remind me every day of the real purpose of this journey we are on. They give me pause, forcing me to reflect on the responsibilities we have in caring for our neighbors. They provide the opportunity and privilege to serve. While I wish the need was not there, the reality is clear. One thousand families visit our Food Pantry every month for food, clothing, financial aid, information and referrals. My hope and prayer is that the FACS family of volunteers, along with support from the community, will continue to meet this great responsibility and privilege of service.

I sincerely wish all of our beloved FACS volunteers and generous supporters a blessed, joyful Christmas, and health and well being in the New Year.

Terry Coyle, Director