

Hunger

District 6-SE Cabinet Meeting

March 9, 2023

The U S Department of Agriculture released a 2022 report revealing that 44 million people (1 in 7) live in food insecure households. Of the 44 million, 13 million are children (1 in 5). This is an increase of 31% for households and 44% for children from 2021 to 2022. These are the highest rates of food insecurity reported since 2014 and the largest one-year increase since 2008. The 2022 numbers from the USDA are reflected in the demands on food banks and pantries.

If there is a food pantry in your community, it needs your help. Many Lions Clubs partner with a community food pantry. I suggest that local clubs pursue and maintain a partnership with the local food bank/pantry. If there is no food pantry in your community, I suggest starting one.

Every community needs to help the hungry. Many community members are in need of short-term help, others may need continual help. Most people work hard and they make ends meet, but then a family member gets sick and needs medicine, an appliance brakes down or the car needs new tires. The tight budge forces them into making decisions such as; should we by medicine or food? The local food pantry can help the family keep food on the table while buying the medicine.

There is a food pantry in Calhan; a town of 850 people. The pantry generally serves 1,100 client contacts each month (13,019 in 2023). In addition, the pantry supplies clothing, small household items, pet food, hygiene products and a kind word to clients. Obviously, many people come to the pantry from the surrounding area. The name of the pantry is Eastern Plains Community Pantry (EPCP). The Pantry has a website and a Facebook account which can be accessed electronically. Better yet, make an appointment for a personal and/or a club visit. The Pantry is open to visitors in the morning 6 days a week or if you like, I can arrange a tour for you. The EPCP phone number is 719 347 3062.

PCC Bob Selle, Hunger Chair, District 6-SE, EPCP Board Member