



## 30 Partners in 30 Days



### **The Daily Bread Center: A community collaborative to alleviate hunger**

The Daily Bread Center in Martins Ferry, OH, is a great example of a community working together to meet the needs of its members. There had been a food pantry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church for over 30 years. It began as a small operation responding to emergency needs of community members whose homes had burnt down. Martins Ferry's economy had also begun to decline and the pantry grew to serve more and more people. Seven years ago, St. Paul's Food Pantry joined forces with Mid-Ohio Foodbank, allowing the pantry to grow even more quickly.

During this time, there were many other organizations in the community also providing food assistance. According to Rev. John Brandenburg, "One of the pastors brought forth the idea that we could be more effective if we worked in partnership out of one location, with all the churches contributing food and volunteers." Since St. Paul's had the largest pantry, and an existing relationship with Mid-Ohio Foodbank, they led the charge to create an ecumenical community food pantry.

The new pantry opened this past August. With their pooled resources, in its first month the pantry served almost twice as many people as St. Paul's had been able to serve each month. The new pantry is open Tuesday mornings, some Thursday evenings and two Saturday mornings each month.

The pantry is supported by a group of nearly 80 volunteers. Clients come from eight different churches, and volunteers are scheduled in such a way that there are always representatives from at least four different churches there at any one time.

The Daily Bread Center is hoping to soon offer an Ohio Benefit Bank site, where clients can learn if they are eligible for other types of assistance, including SNAP (food stamps), WIC, etc. They also provide referrals to other emergency food sites and free legal services in the community. Clients can also receive gas vouchers, as well as vouchers for food not provided by the pantry.

"The need in Martins Ferry continues to grow as the unemployment numbers continue to rise," says Rev. Brandenburg. "There are many residents of Martins Ferry living at or below the poverty line, including an increasing number of working poor. The last steel mill in the area employs less than 100 people, and it is in imminent danger of closing entirely. Most other jobs are in the service economy, and these are mostly part-time and do not include health benefits."



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**Learn More**

**Daily Bread Center**  
740-633-6107

**Mid-Ohio Foodbank**  
[www.midohiofoodbank.org](http://www.midohiofoodbank.org)  
614-274-7770