

A Brief History of the Lebanon Food Pantry

The Lebanon Food Pantry was founded on September 17, 1985, with a simple purpose: to help neighbors in need access nutritious food and support during hardship.

For more than 40 years, the Pantry has grown through strong community collaboration. Today, it is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, a member of Shared Harvest Food Bank, and an agency of United Way of Warren County.

The Pantry operates through a partnership of 12 local church groups, supported by one part-time coordinator, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, dozens of community partners and retailers, and more than 200 financial supporters. Together, this community ensures that individuals and families in Lebanon and throughout Warren County have access to the food, clothing, and resources they need.

Our vision remains simple: a community where everyone has access to nutritious food.

Our Current Service Numbers

In 2025, we served 20,204 people representing 5,927 households, 182,124 meals.

On average, a family came 3.36 times for assistance during the year. We are seeing an increased demand for assistance, approximately an **18% increase**. 90% of the people we serve, live in Warren County, 10% are from the region.

Year-to-date in 2026, we served 13,958 people representing 4,172 households, 125,622 meals.

We Serve Warren County

Nearly 15% of Warren County residents may qualify for help from the Lebanon Food Pantry.

- 6.5% live at or below the federal poverty level—about \$33,000 or less per year for a family of four.
- Another 8.5% are in the “cliff zone,” earning between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level. These families may earn too much to qualify for some assistance but still struggle to afford basic needs.

Together, that means roughly 15% of Warren County residents may be eligible for services at the Lebanon Food Pantry.

Building Capacity to Exceed Demand

Rising food costs, higher demand, and reduced free food from the federally funded programs that Shared Harvest Foodbank administers are leading to fewer meals than needed are being served in Warren County. Our pantry is expanding its retail rescue and partnering with the City of Lebanon and the Pleasant Square Community Center to plant a community garden.

These efforts will help build the capacity for nutritious food and increase the number of meals we can serve to those seeking assistance.

FAQs: NEIGHBORS



How do I receive food assistance?

If you need food assistance, you can come to our location at 190 New Street, Lebanon, OH 45036, and we will provide you with food. If you live in Warren County and are eligible for ongoing assistance, you will review the Federal form and self-identify that you meet the guidelines. Please review the form.

Do I need to bring identification?

No ID is needed. At your first visit, you will provide your name, phone number, address, and date of birth. You will also tell us the name and date of birth of every household member you are requesting to be served.

When should I show up to receive food assistance?

Please come during business hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m., and Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.

1st Monday, 6-8 p.m. every month except September.

We are closed on these Holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Friday after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

How much food will I receive?

We do our best to provide enough food to feed your household for three days, including three meals per day.

What if I can't make it to a pantry, but I need assistance?

If you can't come for food, send someone as your proxy. They need your ID, an authorization letter, and household members' details. Fill out the proxy form ahead of time or at the pantry. CareSource offers transportation, scheduled at least 2 days before your food pick-up.

Can I pick up food for myself and a friend or family member?

You will need to bring a copy of the second family's head-of-household identification, a letter from them stating that they permit you to pick up food for their family, and the names, birth-dates, and genders of everyone living in their household. If possible, complete the proxy form; if not, complete one at the pantry.

Can I volunteer and receive food assistance?

Yes. If you need assistance and would also like to serve others in need, you will need to sign up to volunteer on our website. When you arrive to volunteer, inform one of our staff members that you need food assistance. You will need to stay for the entire service event, and our team will ensure you receive the food you need. You cannot serve food or other items to yourself or a relative.

Will the pantry be open if the weather is bad?

The pantry will be closed when Lebanon City Schools are closed for a weather event. Please watch our social media and website for an announcement.

Will I receive a hot meal at the pantry or only groceries, clothing, and household items?

Community meals are available daily in Lebanon, but not at our location. We will provide you with a schedule.

FAQs: DONORS



How will my donation help?

Your gift provides nutritious food and essential items to neighbors in need and helps cover the costs of food rescue, transportation, storage, and distribution.

Does my donation stay local?

Yes. Your support directly benefits neighbors in Lebanon, throughout Warren County, and the region.

Is my donation tax-deductible?

Yes. Lebanon Food Pantry, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Donations may be tax-deductible as permitted by law. Our EIN is 31-1148769.

Can I make a one-time or monthly donation?

Yes! We welcome both one-time and recurring gifts. Monthly donations provide dependable support throughout the year.

Can I donate in honor or memory of someone?

Yes. Please include the honoree or memorial information with your donation.

Can I donate food or other items?

Yes! We welcome food, personal-care, gently-used clothing, and household-item donations. Please check our current needs or contact us before donating.

What food items are most needed?

Shelf-stable foods such as canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, rice, cereal, peanut butter, and canned proteins are always appreciated. Please check our current wish list for the latest needs.

Can I donate fresh or frozen food?

Yes. Please contact us before donating perishable items so we can coordinate delivery and safe handling.

Can my business, church, or organization donate?

Absolutely! We welcome financial gifts, food drives, sponsorships, and other community partnerships.

Do you accept stock or other non-cash gifts?

Yes. Please contact us for information about donating stock, IRA distributions, or other non-cash assets.

Does my employer offer matching gifts?

Many employers match charitable donations. Check with your employer to see if your gift qualifies.

Have questions about donating?

We're happy to help! Contact the Lebanon Food Pantry for more information about giving or other ways to support our neighbors.