**UPDATES FROM LEADERSHIP—June 2025**

* We are seeing some decrease in the number of neighbors visiting our food pantry and in the food we have available to us. Some of this could be seasonal, some could be due to increased uncertainties with federal programs, and some could be caused by something else. We are hopeful that produce availability will improve as the growing season ramps up.
* We are a member of FERN (Food Exchange Resource Network), a group of pantries that share food and a warehouse space. FERN receives food collected by three post offices during the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive held on May 10th this year. Unfortunately, the amount of food collected this year was less than half of what was donated last year. We have noted that food donations are greatly increased when the post office delivers a plastic bag promoting the event, rather than just a postcard. We are working to find one or more plastic bag sponsors for next year; if you know of businesses/organizations that may have interest, let Stephanie know.
* As the level of donated food decreases, we are spending more to ensure that we keep staples (such as milk, rice, beans, peanut butter, canned goods) in stock.
* On the bright side, the availability of eggs is improving and we were recently blessed with a large donation from another pantry, so we expect to be able to provide these on a more consistent basis.
* We now have three Pocket Talk translation devices which can be used to converse in 84 different languages. The devices are stored in the registration cart and we encourage you to try them out; they are very easy to use. We also have some walkie-talkies for communication on distribution day—these have been helpful as well.
* If you know someone who might be able to pick up donations from the Parker Farmer's Market on Sunday afternoons at 1 pm, please let us know. There are openings beginning July 20 through the end of October.
* Finally, a few reminders: Continue to wear closed toe shoes, sunscreen, safety vest, and perhaps a hat. Take a break for water and shade whenever needed. And if you’re on the line, please remember to ask cars to keep moving forward.

You are all greatly appreciated for what you are doing to help with food security in our area! Thank you!!!