

The Stevenson Food Bank serves hundreds of families every month. In order for us to do that there is a lot of overhead, such as: rent, electricity, maintenance, phones, internet, office supplies, food, etc. I work as the coordinator 26 hours a week. I am the only paid employee in the Food Bank and we have many wonderful volunteers who donate an average of 89 hours a month.

The Food Bank relies heavily on funds donated to us and our budget does not have any wiggle room. Every year expenses go up and donations go down and we have more and more families are coming in who need help. We do receive money from the County but as the County faces hardship that amount has steadily declined.

I do know that our community is in great need of our services. I am told at least once every single day of operation that they don't know what they would do without our help, that the cost of food on top of living expenses is more than they can handle. Many say that they would have to choose between food and rent, or food and electricity, or food and gas for their car to get to work.

As of September of this year, we have given out an average of 208 food boxes a month. We have an average of 534 individuals come through our doors every month to get food.

Please understand we are not just a place to get food, we are also helping people with their livelihoods. We are making it just a little bit easier to go to work or to keep their children warm in the winter and not have to go to bed hungry. Have you ever had to tell your loved ones I'm sorry but there is nothing to eat you have to wait until you get to school tomorrow? I have lived that life while growing up and it is very real and happens every day, everywhere, even right here in our town. I hope that when you are deciding if we should receive more funding that you understand just what our families are going through and how much worse it could be.

I am respectfully requesting \$10,000 for the continuing operation of the Stevenson Food Bank in 2019.

We appreciate all of your support in the past and hope that we can continue to feed our community together.

Thank you,

Patti Nichols

Stevenson Food Bank Coordinator