

## ***Family, Health & Self-Sufficiency Notes from Sept. 21***

Al Riggle & Valerie Wilson were present along with two guests from Gleaners, Sloan Shockley (Senior & Mobile Pantry Programs Manager) and Kathy Keiner (Chief Programs & Agency Relations Officer)

We discussed at great length the closing of the Austin Mobile Food Pantry. Essentially, this was a decision made by Gleaners due to budget constraints. Their strategy was to keep the Scottsburg site as that was more central to the entire population center of Scott County and to close the Austin site.

We discussed the need for a site in Austin as so many of those folk walked to the mobile food pantry. Gleaners expressed an interest in working with Grace Covenant Church to provide a Senior food pantry one or two days a week in their Cherry Street Community Building.

Also, we discussed that the Clearinghouse shares food with Food 4 Your Souls, Hope to Others, to the Austin Learning Center and other food pantries in the area when we have a surplus of some type of food. Also, we expressed the purpose of the CH was to ensure that all people in the county received some help instead of the prior method when some people received all the help, and others received no help. In addition, the purpose was for all churches to join forces and resources to support one entity, not having the community support multiple pantries.

This is increasingly becoming a problem as more and more churches decide they want to reach out with a food pantry. Then, they want various organizations to help support their pantry. The community foundation has also expressed frustration with this trend. We will be working with the Community Foundation to host a forum for all entities to get together and discuss their decisions and problems.

The Summer Youth Feeding Program was also discussed. The past summer was very successful. The FHSS representatives will be planning a meeting with both school superintendents to see how we can work more closely through and with the schools.

Next Meeting:

1. Set date with Community Foundation for a community meeting regarding food pantries
2. Report on meetings with superintendents regarding feeding programs and vision for the next summer.

Long-Term:

1. Work on marketing the Clearinghouse services

2. Work on marketing Circles' accomplishments
3. Examine the results of surveys from the CH