

# Greensburg Record-Herald

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## September is Hunger Awareness Month

### *Over 400 children face food insecurity locally*

BY DALE CURRY  
R-H STAFF

Food insecurity in Kentucky is at a rate of 15% according to statistics from Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland.

Food insecurity means a person does not have reliable access to affordable food that is also nutritious.

In Kentucky, children are especially at risk. The food insecurity rate for children in Kentucky is 19%, much higher than the 12% national average.

In Green County, according to Feeding America, about 410 children face food insecurity on a daily basis. The overall rate for children and adults in Green County is 14.1% or about 1,550 people.

That need is what makes the Green

County Food Pantry such an essential source of help in our community.

Each month, about 210 families come to the Food Pantry, located in the basement of the courthouse, according to Jan George, director of the Food Pantry.

Kentucky has the highest rate of food insecurity for adults age 50-59. One of the reasons for this is so many grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

Despite the gains that have been made to reduce the number of families who struggle with putting food on the table, Feeding America believes that the fallout from Covid-19 will eliminate any advances that have been made over the past decade.

Some churches in

Green County have small food pantries that assist with hunger in the county but the largest is the Green County Food Pantry which is open every Thursday to Green County residents.

The Green County Food Pantry distributes USDA foods they receive from the Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland food bank in Elizabethtown.

The local food pantry also purchases some food from that agency for distribution.

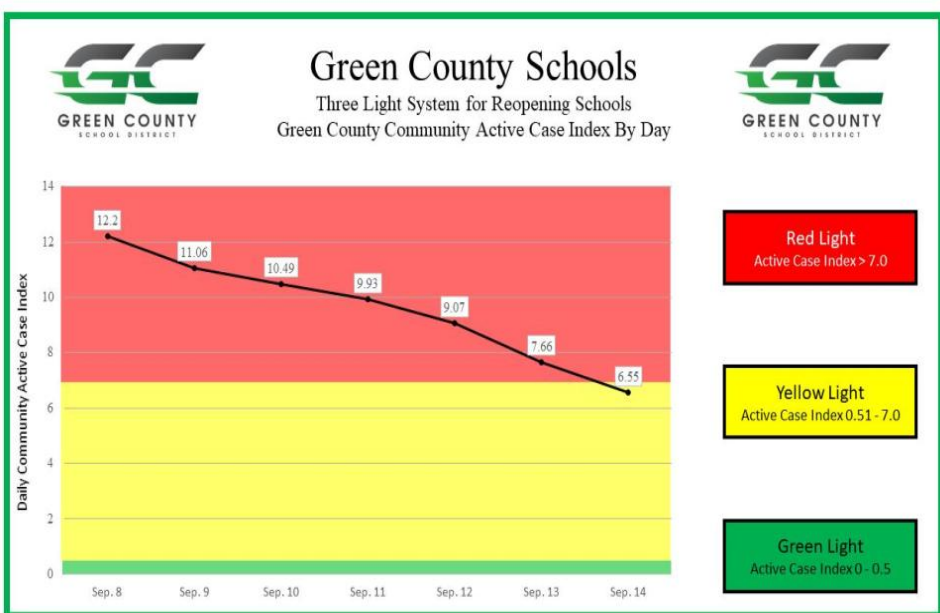
The local food pantry also participates in what is commonly called the Senior Box program, which targets seniors on a limited income.

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Photo by Dale Curry

Kim March is one of several volunteers who show up week after week to put together bags of food that were either purchased from Feeding America, Kentucky's Heartland or were donated by churches and individuals in Green County.



## Schools head back in-person Thursday

The Green County School District announced Tuesday morning that students enrolled in in-person classes will return to school tomorrow, Sept. 17.

"Our Community ACI has returned to the 'Yellow Phase' of our reopening plan,"

the announcement said. "As of today, we are announcing a return to in-person classes as of Thursday, September 17."

As of Sept. 14, the Green County Schools' Active Case Index was a 6.55. To attend classes in-person, the ACI must remain below a 7.

"We have every intention to continue with in-person instruction until fall break (October 5-9) in order to provide consistency for our families. We appreciate your continued patience and support during this unprecedented time."

## September BOE recap

SPECIAL TO THE R-H

The Green County Board of Education held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, Sept. 10.

The family of Morris and Leona Ingram were in attendance to present a \$1 million check on behalf of the couple's estate. The funding will be used by the district to create a special endowed scholarship in memory of the Ingrams.

Morris and Leona Ingram were former educators in Green County and Jefferson County. The Ingrams were lifelong educators and wanted to provide a path for future educators residing in their birthplace, Green County.

The endowment, known as "The Morris and Leona Ingram Memorial Scholarship for Future Educators", will be used to help cover tuition for first generation college students who intend to enter the field of Education as a teacher while

attending a Kentucky college or university. Established with \$1 million bequeathed by Morris and Leona Ingram, the scholarship will be offered to eligible graduating seniors of Green County High School.

Superintendent Hodges commented on the impact of the scholarship.

"There is no way to measure the effect that this visionary gesture of generosity will have on our community," Hodges said. "Moving forward, this gift will provide a means for those that have no other way. It will produce educators that are so valuable, with many of them returning to our community to cultivate the young minds of our children. The positivity will be exponential, our children will be the winners!"

The district's director of finance, Zachary Leftwich, presented the 2020-2021 working budget before the

board.

The balanced general fund budget included approximately \$13 million in receipts and expenditures.

Leftwich commented on the budget and the district's financial position.

"We presented a very conservative budget to our board. We are in very uncertain times with COVID-19 and it is still undetermined what funding cuts we might see at both the state and federal levels," Leftwich said.

"I am proud to say that the district remains in solid financial standing due to great leadership by our board and Superintendent. This budget will help us to navigate throughout the year ahead and ensure we are being frugal with taxpayer dollars while also still guaranteeing our students and faculty/staff continue to have access to the resources they need for a quality education."

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## CARES Act delivers another \$41 mil. for Ky. nursing homes

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced last week 280 Kentucky nursing facilities received a total of \$41,007,500 to support increased testing, staffing, and the purchase of personal protective equipment. The federal funding, distributed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was made available by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Senator McConnell introduced the CARES Act, which became the largest rescue package in American history, and led it to enactment in about a week.

"Kentucky's seniors need our help, especially during the coronavirus crisis. I'm

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-Senator McConnell

proud the CARES Act continues delivering urgent assistance for nursing homes to help protect the residents and caregivers," said Senator McConnell. "Like all of Kentucky's healthcare heroes, these facilities' workers are courageously working to keep our loved ones safe. I'd like to extend my gratitude, and, as Senate

Majority Leader, I'll continue working to provide for them."

This announcement follows the nearly \$130 million Senator McConnell announced for Kentucky's nursing facilities in May. So far, Kentucky's healthcare heroes have received more than \$1.3 billion from the CARES Act Provider Relief Fund.

"We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to HHS and Leader McConnell for their decisive support and leadership during this unprecedented time," said Betsy Johnson, President of Kentucky Association of Health Care Facilities and Kentucky Center for Assisted Living.

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