

# Food Pantry for H.O.P.E.

(Helping Out People Everywhere)



## 1 MISSION

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The Food Pantry Ministry was birthed in 2014. Originally operating from a meek beginning, the Food Pantry has grown as the need within the community has grown. The purpose of Food Pantry for H.O.P.E. at LifeSong Church is to meet the basic needs of the community during times of hardship through this ministry. The Mission is to serve by sharing the love of God to those who come for assistance with grace and kindness. We believe that we are called to action by the Holy Scriptures to feed the hungry and satisfy their thirst... *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."* Matthew 25:35

## 2 PROCEDURE

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LifeSong Church reserves the right to contact local resource centers concerning applicant(s). Applicant(s) are awarded assistance based on need. Applicant(s) are not granted assistance based on relationships between the applicant and LifeSong Church. LifeSong church does not discriminate based upon religious affiliation, race, color, sex, national origin, age, geographic territory, or disability. The amount of aid, if awarded, is based upon the applicants' needs and available resources. The application is intended to provide churches, pastors, and staff with current and accurate information concerning the applicant. **The applicant(s) are to be assisted every other month until assistance is no longer needed.**

### 3 APPLICATION PROCESS

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The applicant recognizes that LifeSong is relying on the accuracy of the information contained the application. Accordingly, they attest and affirm that all of the information provided is absolutely true and correct.

The applicant authorizes LifeSong Church to contact any person or entity listed in the application, and further authorize any such person or entity to provide LifeSong Church with information, opinions, and impressions relating to the background or qualifications.

The applicant voluntarily release LifeSong Church and any such person or entity listed herein from liability involving the communication of information relating to their background or qualifications. They further authorize LifeSong Church to conduct a criminal background investigation if such a check is deemed necessary.

Upon completion of the application, they have provided a current picture ID and proof of residence. If not provided, Food Pantry for H.O.P.E. reserves the right to deny assistance.

### 4 HOURS OF OPERATION

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**Emergency Assistance** - Families within our church who are in need are provided food at their request. Families outside our church are asked to wait until the days designated as OPEN DOORS. If they are provided assistance with a food box during “off” hours, volunteers are to use the buddy system by asking a fellow pantry volunteer to assist with the distribution. Make sure that an application is completed and a replacement box completed if necessary.

#### OPEN DOORS each month:

**2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays from 4pm to 6pm**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday from 1pm to 3pm**

### 5 DONATIONS

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Our Food Pantry receives donations from several sources.

- LifeSong Church budgeted funds
- Congregation by means of monies or non-perishable items
- River Cities Harvest
- Feed the Hungry Food Bank
- Glow4God Annual concert open to the community
- Donations from area Dollar General, Boyd Co Ext Office, and other organizations

## 6 VOLUNTEERS

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**Evaluate** – Monitor and evaluate the need for assistance.

**Inform Members** - Update and inform the congregation of the goals, needs, and uses of the Food Pantry.

**Inclusiveness** - Seek to include members of the congregation to be involved in this part of our Church mission.

**Maintain Cleanliness** – Keep a clean and orderly environment for food storage and stock rotation.

**Maintain Integrity** – Use the *suggestion sheet* located in the Pantry to give appropriate amount of food to each family.

**Purchase Supply Items** – Inventory items, assemble lists, and purchase items needed for supply that have not otherwise been donated.

**Serve Those In Need** - Remember that our goal is to help end hunger by offering assistance with food to those in need within our community with dignity, kindness, discretion, respect, and prayer.