



107 E Smith St • Oxford, IN 47971

This has been a year of unexpected hardships for everyone. For this reason, it is truly important to look at all the blessings we have also been given in 2020. The Co-Op has definitely had many blessings for which to be thankful. The first one is all of our donors. The donations we have received since the pandemic began in March has truly been amazing. From organizations, businesses, churches, windmill companies, and private individuals - I can't begin to name everyone! Along with monetary donations, we have received many well wishes and prayers for all of our workers to remain healthy and safe while serving the public.

Our second blessing is our volunteers. We had to cut back the quantity of volunteers coming in for the safety of everyone involved. The short crew of six workers have put in many long hours shopping, stocking shelves, cleaning, sanitizing, and managing the Payless items that are donated on Thursdays and Saturdays, etc. I have witnessed close relationships develop among this short crew. I see them supporting each other and reaching out to individuals in the community who may need help. I am very thankful for this crew!

The cooperation and understanding shown by our members are also blessings. In order to keep everyone safe during these challenging times, we temporarily altered our shopping procedures to a call-in ordering with curbside pickup format. Workers pack the requested list of items and shoppers pick them up at the Co-Op side door. This new process has been working well. Families still get a choice of everything on the shelves. This does veer slightly from our mission for the time being, but it was a necessary change, just like many things we all have had to change this year.

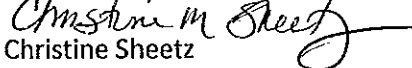
Since the beginning of January through October we have served 3823 adults and 3351 children. Compared to the previous three years, averaging 1500 total individuals per year, this is remarkable. Wow.

It is amazing to me that we will be entering our fifth year of serving families in 2021. Unfortunately, hunger is an ongoing issue in Benton County, even more so with families struggling through COVID-19. Community support still remains crucial to our success. Myself and all the Co-Op workers look forward to serving the moderate to low-income families in Benton County in 2021. Hopefully it will be a better year - virus free of COVID-19, mask free, with the ability to visit our elderly loved ones without worry, and have holiday meals together with our extended families.

All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made out to Community Action Program, Inc with the words "Food Co-Op" in the memo.

Thank you and God Bless you for your consideration in supporting the Benton Community Food and Service Co-Op.

In Gratitude,


Christine Sheetz

Community Action Program, Inc of Western IN
Benton Community Food and Service Co-Op

"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