

Hunger Banquet - 2015

Perry Valley Grange partnered with the Greenwood High School FFA Chapter on February 6, 2015, to host a "Hunger Banquet" at the Greenwood Elementary School. When the 100 or so guests arrived at this event, they were randomly assigned to a high-, middle-, or low-income tier based on the latest statistics of people living in poverty around the world and given envelopes of "money" corresponding to the financial resources typical of each income tier. The Grange and various churches of the community provided a variety of food items that could be "purchased" by each individual using their available "money".

The high-income group had plenty of money to buy whatever they wanted to eat. Many chose a plate featuring ham loaf, scalloped potatoes and corn and added a fresh salad and/or tasty dessert to their meal for the night. Those in the middle income group likely settled for a less bountiful meal featuring potpie, still delicious but much less costly to prepare and serve. Finally, those in the low-income group may have had only enough money to purchase a rather bland mixture of rice and beans, which incidentally is a major food staple for much of the world's population. As hoped, many tables of guests pooled their funds so that everyone could have enough resources to be fed.

When the meal finished, guests discussed hunger issues and received information to inform, enlighten and inspire. Speakers gave short prepared remarks on hunger and poverty issues on the local, national and international levels. Although not all participants left with full stomachs, they possessed a greater understanding of hunger and poverty issues in Perry County, Pennsylvania, the United States and beyond. Voluntary contributions totaling \$2,702.94 were accepted to benefit the Perry County Food Bank.



Guests Received Random Amounts of "Money" to Purchase Food



Grange Chaplain Offers Meal Grace



Churches Supported the Hunger Banquet by Providing & Serving Food



Attendees Await Their Turn to Eat



Perry Valley Grange offered a full course meal of ham loaf, scalloped potatoes and corn



Donation Jars Netted Generous Contributions to Fight Hunger



The Low Income Meal of Rice & Beans



Speaker from U.S. Department of Agriculture



FFA students and Grange members presented Hunger Banquet proceeds of \$2,702.94 to the Perry County Food Bank to aid in fighting hunger in the local community

