

2016 Major \$\$ Commitment to Three Projects

Perry Valley Grange continues its active service to the larger community. Action has been taken recently to provide both volunteer manpower and major financial support totaling \$15,000 for three big projects this year. A grant request was prepared and submitted to the Pennsylvania State Grange requesting the release of funds from the trust established upon the sale of our former Grange Hall and property. The request for release of funds was approved and the funds have been received for the following projects.



Some of 180 community volunteers who assisted with packing a grand total of 47,000 meal kits in a "Meals of Hope" project jointly sponsored by Perry Valley Grange and Greenwood FFA.

Our Grange partnered with the Greenwood FFA Chapter to sponsor a "Meals of Hope" food packing project in February. The initial goal of raising \$12,500 to underwrite the cost to package up to 50,000 nutritionally balanced meal kits for distribution to those in need throughout central Pennsylvania was exceeded. The effort is coordinated by a Florida based organization and is similar to a 2014 event at the Farm Show Building where local Grange and FFA members helped. The Grange jump-started the financial drive by committing up to \$6,000 to match, dollar for dollar, individual and community contributions for this project. The local coordinator of this event is FFA advisor and Grange vice president Krista Pontius. The meal packing event took place on Friday, February 5, 2016, from 5-9 p.m. in the Greenwood Elementary School with an estimated 180 volunteers present to help. The final result was total receipts of \$17,450 contributed by fifty-one individuals and organizations, and including the proceeds of several fund raising events. After the purchase of all the needed food supplies, there was still \$5,000 remaining that was given directly to the Food Banks to support their on-going costs of operation.



The second project provided a \$4,000 matching grant to the Newport Revitalization & Preservation Society designated for playground equipment replacement in the Newport Veterans' Park.

The presentation of these funds took place at the Grange's April 8, 2016, Open House Fellowship Dinner and Program when Mr. R. Franklin Campbell outlined the on-going project to rehabilitate and improve the community park and then accepted the gift on behalf of the Newport Revitalization & Preservation Society. Doug Bonsall, Grange Treasurer and Community Service Chair, made the presentation on behalf of Perry Valley Grange.

The third big project, also in partnership with the FFA, was the first annual Ag Education Day on May, 23, 2016. The event included a day of activities at the Perry County Fairgrounds in Newport for about 200 fourth grade students from the Newport and Greenwood School Districts. Some years ago the FFA obtained a grant to do a similar program for local students and it was an outstanding success. Unfortunately, grants from other sources have been unavailable to help fund such an undertaking and Perry Valley Grange committed up to \$5,000 so this could happen again. Costs for such a large scale event include bus transportation for the students, substitute teacher fees, speaker honoraria, food and supplies. Students will have the opportunity to visit hands-on activity stations on agricultural and environmental themes and will be provided with a bag lunch. An awards ceremony for the annual Grange sponsored essay & poster contests, this year on related themes, was also part of this special day.

