

GLENPOOL â€” Triumph Worship Center, located off 181st Street and U.S. 75 houses and distributes food to 50-70 families per week and 200-plus per month. The church food bank has been operational for eight years and is part of the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. The outreach services portions of three counties and cities such as Glenpool, Mounds, Beggs, Kiefer and even parts of Bixby and Sapulpa. â€œWe are at an odd hub here,â€• said Karen Holford, director of the Triumph food bank.

She said the closest substantial food bank is the Bixby Outreach Center in downtown Bixby. Triumph has seen an influx of recipients since inception, especially after The Landing church in Glenpool ended its outreach program a few years ago sending their clients to Triumph. â€œWe literally feed over a third of the town of Mounds,â€• Holford said. But, more recipients doesnâ€™t equate to more food. â€œSadly we probably give out less than half of the food we used to,â€• Holford said. They believe this problem is common with many food banks and stems from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The USDAâ€™s Emergency Food Assistance Program is where the food bank formerly received plentiful donations in comparison to currently stock. Triumphâ€™s pastor, Rob Griffin, ran the food bank for several years before Holford took over. â€œYou could get just about anything. Green beans, corn, carrots â€” all of this USDA stuff. Of course, itâ€™s subsidized by the government. About three years ago, USDA (donations) just about disappeared.â€• To supplement the loss from the USDA, the Triumph food bank purchases extra food from the Eastern Oklahoma Community Food Bank. â€œThe amount of what is available with USDA is just nominal. You canâ€™t even make a meal. We have to supplement that,â€• Griffin said. Regarding donations, Triumphâ€™s food bank is receptive to almost anything. â€œCanned goods, non-perishable and, of course, money always helps. That increases our buying leverage. We are able to purchase some things at a discounted rate through the food bank,â€• Holford said. Emphasis is directed on vegetables. â€œFor some reason this year, there have been no vegetables â€” canned vegetables. They just donâ€™t exist for some reason,â€• Holford said. â€œNo

even for us to purchase at the food bank," added Griffin. When donating, perishables take some consideration. If donated on Tuesday's distribution day, it should be fine. Items which spoil in less than a week are not wanted. Holdford had just thrown out a tray of premade meals from a grocer which had begun to mold.

"If it's not something we would eat, we don't give it out," Griffin said.

If someone wishes to donate money, Griffin assures as long as a donation is designated to the food bank, 100 percent of the funds will go to the outreach. Triumph Worship Center, as a church, financially helps fund the food bank too. One congregation member even donates a case of green beans on a weekly basis. In addition to individual's donation, Holdford would love to see local businesses, especially grocers and restaurants donate directly to Triumph's food bank rather than their parent food bank. For more information, see TriumphTulsa.com or OKFoodBank.org.