

# OCTOBER 2020 NEWSLETTER



PHELPS COUNTY FAITH  
DISTRIBUTION

Serving since 1999. Partner of The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

## BUILDING PROGRESS!

The walls and roof are up in the new dedicated facility for Phelps County Faith Distribution! We are excited about the progress made since ground was broken at the beginning of the summer. The next steps include installation of electric, insulation, doors, windows and fans. Check out the progress at 12640 South U.S. Highway 63 or through

<https://www.facebook.com/phelpscountyfood>.



In other exciting news, PCFD has received a \$20,000 Feeding America Capacity Grant distributed by The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri to go toward the purchase of a Raymond Electric Forklift! This piece of equipment will be invaluable to our operations in the new warehouse and means we no longer have to lease a machine each month. The total cost is \$33,600, and of that only \$6,000 remains to be raised by mid-November. If you'd like to help, donations can be given online at <https://www.phelpscountyfood.org/donate.html> or checks can be mailed to 12640 South U.S. Highway, Rolla, MO.

## A TRIBUTE TO DR. LARRY MARTI

Dr. Larry Marti (1938-2020) served as a volunteer with PCFD for many years and was on the capital campaign committee which raised the funds for a dedicated facility. We remember him here.

Whenever Hope Lehnhoff Hamer looks at the wedding ring on her hand, she is thankful that Dr. Larry Marti moved to Rolla when she was 5 years old. His arrival came just before an accident where her hand was hit with a sledgehammer and left her ring finger dangling by a thread. Dr. Marti, who was ill at the time, was called in on the emergency. Despite having a fever, all he could think about was a young girl who might someday want to wear the ring of her beloved on that finger. He stood for 8 hours and tirelessly knit together every ligament and tendon, and was able to save the finger so that it worked perfectly. Many years later, Hope did indeed have a wedding ring placed on that finger. She and her husband, Michael, celebrated 20 years of marriage this year.



Gerald Dowdy worked with Dr. Marti both in his role as an administrator with Mercy Clinic and Phelps Health, as well as the two of them serving together at PCFD. Gerald remembers Dr. Marti's servant heart the most. "He served the country in the military, he served the community for 40 years as a trusted and respected physician, he served his local church, and most recently, served on the PCFD fund-raising committee. His legacy is the tens of thousands of people he has served."

Dr. Don James knew and worked with Larry Marti for 40 years. "He was an exceptionally gifted orthopedic surgeon. He could make the most completely shattered bones go together like a crossword puzzle," said Dr. James. "He practiced medicine for the right reasons.

"He was equally committed to his profession, his family, his wife, Pat, and his multitude of grandchildren, of whom he was exceptionally proud!"

Bob Johnston, of First Baptist Church of Rolla, knew Dr. Marti best as his pastor. "Many times we bowed in prayer at the side of a patient about to have surgery, for he never lost sight of his need to have the Great Physician guide him," said Pastor Johnston. "He was a deacon in our church and a true encourager to all who met him, a tremendous servant of the Lord he so loved."

A scripture from 2 Corinthians 9:9 sums up his life well: **Because he has sown extravagantly and given to the poor, his kindness and generous deeds will never be forgotten.**

Dr. Larry Marti: We will not forget your kindness and generous deeds of love!

## WHY WE SUPPORT PCFD

Dale and I have been part of this community for 30 years. Dale is the owner of Filter-Tek and I taught special education for the Rolla Public Schools. I have since retired and now teach part time at St. Patrick School. As an elementary teacher, I have seen firsthand how hunger can affect a child's learning, behavior, confidence and social adaptation.

We feel this organization is essential to combating hunger in our community. While hunger may not be visible to everyone, it definitely exists and affects many lives. PCFD unites many different faiths to help individuals get the necessary food and nourishment they need. The issue of hunger is more urgent than ever, due to COVID and related job losses. We are very proud to support this program through volunteer work and donations.

— Dale and Candice Metcalf



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