

RIVER FALLS
COMMUNITY FOOD
PANTRY

MISSION STATEMENT:

“To provide food, with respect and dignity, in times of need to those in the River Falls Community.”



JOIN US AT THE
NEXT FOOD PANTRY
MEETING:
TUESDAY, June 15th
6:00 P.M.
Ezekiel Lutheran Church

TIDBITS!

1. The annual Post Office Food Drive last month brought in over 6,717 lbs of food to our food pantry. Thanks to all those who donated and especially to our mail carriers who had to pickup and carry all of that extra weight.

2. Did you know that our food pantry volunteer drivers drive over 400 miles every month picking up food in Ellsworth, Hudson, New Richmond and occasionally the Twin Cities.

3. Thanks too to the dozen or so volunteers who unload the Second Harvest semi trucks that deliver food on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month.

The Pantry Press

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Who Directs the Food Pantry?

The Pantry is made up of a Board of Directors. The Board has a director (non voting position), a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and four general board members. A meeting is held once a month that is a combined Pantry Meeting and Board Meeting. The Board has many decisions to make starting with the hours and days the pantry will be open, the number of volunteers on a shift, how to display the food, how much food to give out per family, where the food comes from, how much food to keep in inventory and what training the volunteers need before they can serve clients.

Like a grocery store, fresh produce and baked goods have to be checked and culled every day to prevent spoiled or moldy items from being distributed. Canned goods that are donated have to be checked for badly dented cans that might have lost their air tight seal. Dates on cans must be checked for expiration date. Many of our food partners have strict guidelines on food handling and storage. Some conduct periodic inspections to insure quality. Proper air ventilation and temperature are requirements so food must be kept six inches off the floor, four inches from the wall and eighteen inches from the ceiling. Room and freezer tem-

peratures are taken and recorded every day.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Second Harvest Heartland and The Emergency Food Network (EFN), all require food to be ordered anywhere from four days to three weeks in advance. They also require monthly reporting on the amount of food given out over the past month. They need to know the number of households served and how many adults and how many children are in those households. All of this documentation takes hours of work by our Board trying to meet the needs of our food partners as well as our clients.

The Hunger Prevention Council

The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County (HPCPC) was started about ten years ago by a group of volunteers and professionals who wanted to help the people of Pierce County who had nutritional needs due to poverty. River Falls Pantry was one of the early members. At least one of our board members attends their monthly meetings and for four of the last five years one has been on their board of directors. HPCPC has sponsored eight food distributions in the county. River Falls Pantry personnel have volunteered at all of them and co-sponsored two at the UWRF Knowles Center. HPCPC sponsors and pays for storage

for the Hunters Venison Donation Program. River Falls Pantry has assisted with this as well as received hundreds of pounds of venison for our clients. HPCPC not only runs the County Pantry but also two mobile pantries one day a month in Elmwood and Bay City. River Falls Pantry has donated many overstock items to the mobile pantries as well as fresh produce being shared back and forth with Plum City, Prescott, Spring Valley and Ellsworth. All of the pantries in Pierce County receive monthly food allotments from TEFAP. This program is funded by grants from Congress to the Department of Agriculture. Food is allotted to the county pantries based on number of clients

served. PCHPC is the agreement holder for Pierce County. Last year River Falls received over 17,200 lbs of food because of this agreement. Our first pantry computer and electric scale were purchased with grant money applied for by PCHPC for us. When the RCFPC first tried to order food from Second Harvest we were turned down. We were required to have a 501C3 tax designation confirming us as a charity. The HPCPC stepped in and let us use their number as an affiliate to obtain food from Second Harvest until our own number had been approved. They have been and continue to be a great partner in our fight against hunger.