YOU are affecting lives with your donations! Did you know that 93 cents out of every dollar goes directly to program services?! That means your monetary donations buy pallets of food and even up to a half of a semi-truck of pork and beans. Children, older adults, people with disabilities, the working poor, the unemployed, and those living in poverty are all receiving the benefits of nutritious food thanks to you. YOU are impacting the lives of people who are going hungry and are in need of food! Thank you for your support.

“Proper nutrition is vital to the growth and development of children, particularly for low-income children. The nation’s economic growth depends on the well-being of our children. As such, the existence of child hunger in the United States threatens future American prosperity.”—Feeding America, SkyNews, July 2013

Peanut Butter Rally a HUGE Success Thanks to You!

More than 13,000 jars, and a little bit of jelly, were donated during our spring Peanut Butter Rally months.

The support provided by you, churches, organizations, service clubs, and businesses assured families that there would be peanut butter available throughout the summer months when children were out of school. We had enough peanut butter to carry us into September, which we were very grateful.

When spread on a slice of bread, peanut butter can provide an inexpensive, yet filling, lunch for a child. It’s also a great source of protein, something we all need for a healthy body.

IT’S TIME!
To host a food drive! We make it as EASY as 1-2-3!
1. Advise your classmates, co-workers, parishioners, club members, etc., of the need, then schedule your food drive or fundraiser.
2. Call us today at 815-965-2466 and arrange for collection barrels to be dropped off.
3. At the end of the drive, give us a call, and we will pick up the barrels. Better yet, you can drop them off yourself and take a tour of our facility while you are here.

RRVP IMMEDIATE NEEDS:
• Pasta & Rice • Canned Fruits & Vegetables
• Peanut Butter • Cereal • Volunteers
This past fiscal year, which ended on June 30th, we celebrated the fact that, with your help, we provided food for over 74,000 user visits, distributed 1.2 million pounds of food, raised almost 1,500 pounds of food in our gardens, assisted more than 650 children with clothing, and supported over 500 households with emergency pet food.

But we’re not done! Staff and volunteers are hard at work, grant proposals are being submitted, gardeners are strategizing for next year, food drives and fundraisers are being planned, and the leadership from our Board of Directors and Advisory Council continues. We will continue to be diligent with your donor dollars, however, as we provide food to some of the poorest people living in our community. Thank you for your past support, and please consider supporting our efforts this holiday season.

Kim Adams-Bakke
Executive Director

THE MILL FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT FUNDING
The MILL Foundation Board awarded a grant to the RRVP to purchase canned vegetables for families with children, for up to six months. This support will allow us to provide healthy food choices to families. This will in turn provide more than 10,000 children who visit us this year with nutritious calories and more than 170,000 servings of vegetables.

BMO Harris Bank & Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry-CFNI provides milk for summer Got Milk for Kids! program.
More than 1,600 gallons of 1% milk was distributed this summer to families with children. Funding for the eight week summer milk program was granted from two community oriented agencies: BMO Harris Bank, and the Margaret Aldeen Trust-Community Foundation of Northern Illinois. This program assured that households with children were given a gallon of milk when they came to the RRVP for food distribution.

This important summer program has assisted families for the last four years and provides a healthy, nutritious beverage that can be used on cereal, or drank at lunch or dinner.

BMO Harris Bank & Margaret K. Aldeen Christian Ministry-CFNI provides milk for summer Got Milk for Kids! program.

2013 Chili Shoot Out
Thanks to Cumulus Broadcasting for hosting this year’s Chili Shoot Out at Aviator Stadium on October 5th. Though the weather was overcast, the spirit of those who donated and helped to collect and organize the food donations were anything but cloudy! Thank you to the members of Belcan Corporation for volunteering to help collect the food and to Hormel for the donation of chili. Almost 1,000 pounds of food was donated to the RRVP.

STATISTICS - Doing More with Less

Client Visits Increased during FY13

Government Support Declining

RRVP CAN ALWAYS USE: • Cereal • Pasta & Rice • Canned Fruits and Vegetables
The Rock River Valley Pantry can’t follow the food given out into the homes it goes to, nor can it say what would happened if the resources the Pantry provides was not available. What it can say, however, is that 6,500 to 7,000 people it provides food to, food measured to meet their needs for three days each month, are less hungry than they would have been. Do the Pantry’s efforts fulfill every need? Probably not, but it makes ten percent of a month less trying for people of limited resources.

When I was seven, I stole a carton of milk everyday at lunch. I got my start when a teacher put a carton of milk on the table in front of me and said, “Would you like this?” It tasted so good, and I believe my body needed it. The next day, I slipped my hand into the cooler and helped myself to another one. I was never caught, but that’s probably because I believe that same teacher, who always slipped in line behind me, paid for it.

Later in life, at a high school class reunion, one of my classmates told me as a child his family was poor. He had no home-packed lunch or money for a school lunch. When he started high school, he found a kid he knew that was smaller than him, and took his lunch money every day. ‘I needed food,’ he said. ‘I was starving.’ He then told me that another classmate found out what he was doing, and walked up to him while he was shaking down his victim and handed him lunch money. My classmate said this same person met him and gave him lunch money every day through high school. We learned at the reunion that the classmate had died several years earlier.

So, what would have happened to us had we not had benefactors? If I had been busted, would I have become a hardened criminal? Probably not, as I’m too timid.

My classmate became an all-state athlete who went to college on a scholarship and became a respected businessman, someone who now gives unselfishly of his talents and resources. If my classmate had not been blessed with a benefactor, would he have become a person who took whatever he believed he needed or wanted? Would he now be a wasted life, someone who fills the role of burden on society? Once again, I can’t measure, I can’t say.

So what was the extended value to society of those acts of kindness, of generosity? I can’t measure it. I can only tell you that for the two of us who benefited from someone else’s generosity, it was priceless.

- F. Lierman

How Does Your Donation Make a Difference?

Escrpts at Schnucks

Want to help without it impacting your wallet? It’s really EASY. Present your escrip card at your local Schnucks’ Supermarket, and Schnucks will donate up to 3% of your grocery bill to the RRVP. Do it today, and make a difference tomorrow!

• Pick up a card at any Schnucks store.
• Register your card at www.escrip.com online or call (800) 931-6258.
• Shop at Schnucks and have your card scanned when you check out.

New Partnering Agencies

As Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Here at the RRVP, we truly believe this is true. We continue to explore and develop partnerships that will help to benefit our clients. We are thankful to all that make it possible for us to provide food and much needed social services to those that are going hungry.

• Jr. League of Rockford - Backpack Buddies for weekend food relief for children
• Community Care Alliance of IL - Insurance resource for people with disabilities
• Jared Varisco - Eagle Scout - Construction of a dumpster corral
• PEAK Fitness - Run Against Hunger 5K Fundraiser
• The MILL Foundation - Six months of funding for vegetables for children
• RSVP/LSSI - Food delivery program for seniors that are homebound
RRVP Mission Statement:
Rock River Valley Pantry fights hunger in the community by providing food to those in urgent need.

RRVP: Respect, Responding, Valuing, Partnering!

Yes, I want to make a difference and fight hunger in our community! Use my donation to purchase food that is urgently needed. Please respond today!

Want to help/feed? Call us at 815-965-2466.

Due to our buying power from food brokers we are able to purchase up to 2 to 3 times what you can at retail pricing. Also, we can purchase what we urgently need and we that we have tremendous buying power. We can usually note that most monetary donations allow us to purchase what we urgently need. But, if you have any food that is going bad, please consider donating it to us. We can usually use it in our pantry. We are always looking for donations of non-perishable goods.

We need YOUR help!

You can help in many ways, including:

- Monetary donations
- Food donations
- Volunteer at the pantry
- Join our Advisory Council
- Participate in our events
- Spread the word

We are here to provide food to those going hungry in our community! We offer hunger relief Mon-Fri from two locations, including morning and afternoon distributions. We offer a variety of food options, including fresh produce and frozen goods. We are always looking for donations of non-perishable goods.

Visit us at 421 S. Rockton or 1100 Broadway, Rockford, IL.
Check out our website at www.rrvp.org. Like us on Facebook!

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