Why Does Hunger and Food Insecurity Exist in our Community?

People go hungry because of unexpected events, such as paying for an emergency visit to the hospital, a car repair, or the loss of a job. You can be just above the poverty line, but any one of those circumstances can push you into poverty.

Winnebago County remains on the State’s Watch list for poverty. The County Well-Being Index highlights counties that are experiencing particularly negative conditions and trends on four key indicators: poverty, unemployment, teen births, and high school graduation. (www.heartlandalliance.org/povertyreport)

A big part of food insecurity relates to the uncertainties of daily life.

Rock River Valley Pantry’s Role in the Community

“Rock River Valley Pantry fights hunger in the community by providing nutritious food to those in urgent need.” We assist people living in Winnebago County, including those living at or below the poverty line, and people in crisis mode.

It’s a simple mission, but an all important one to someone that is hungry or struggling to provide for their family.

Distributed Enough Food for:
• 901,848 meals
• 329,472 eight oz. glasses of milk

75,154 visits in FY17

• 33% of clients were children
• 29% were older adults
• 7% of clients were adults 65 and older

We Can’t do it Without YOU!

Help us to reduce hunger in the community.
• Host a food drive at your company, church, place of worship, or at your service club.
• Volunteer. We have openings, M-F, from 8:00-4:00, in various blocks of time.
• Make a donation. 94 cents of every dollar is spent on program services.
• Advocate. Inquire about Board of Director openings.

Together we can make a difference.

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!

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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Call us at 815.965.2466. Like us on Facebook! Check out our website at www.rrvp.org.
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“I used the Pantry to help feed my two boys this past summer. It was a big help!”
- Tonesha H.

“I’m working as a CNA but fell behind. The pantry is a big help to me right now.”
- Crystal A.
A Year in Review

Greetings from the Rock River Valley Pantry Board.

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jon Lang, and I am this year’s Board President, and I have served on the Pantry Board for 8 years. Back in 2006, I learned of the RRVP while serving on the Rockford Fire Department.

In my 30 years of service as a firefighter, I often saw the need for the Pantry’s food in the homes that we responded to for different emergency calls.

While off duty from the fire department, I had a small farm where I raised hogs and beef, which I continue to farm today. I decided to get involved with the food pantry, as it was a way to bridge my two passions: firefighting and farming. The Pantry helps to take the food that I raise on my farm and get it to those in need of food like those that I saw as a firefighter.

I have been very blessed in my life. The Rock River Valley Pantry has allowed me the opportunity to try to be a blessing to others. My 30 years as a firefighter taught me that we should try to help others whenever we can; contact us if you feel the same. Consider a donation of Time, Talent, or Treasure to the Rock River Valley Pantry. It may change your life; it sure changed mine.

Jon Lang
Rock River Valley Pantry, Board President

“...It’s me and my four kids and without the Pantry I don’t know what I would do. I’m working part time, but that is not enough.”

- Teresa C.

Looking ahead

Have Fun, Do Good!

You, too, can make a difference by registering to attend or assist at a winter event. Call us or check the website or Facebook for more information.

November 25, 2017 Dasher 5K Dash
February 24, 2018 Cosmic Bowling

Round Up for Hunger

Rock & Roll Event Was Groovy!

Due to the generosity of sponsors, donors, attendees, and volunteers, our Round Up for Hunger-Rock & Roll was a great night. The proceeds will help us keep food on the shelves, gas in the van, and the freezers running!

Thank you to BMO Harris Bank, SwedishAmerican Hospital, First Midwest Group, Rockford United Labor, WIFR-23, 96.7 the Eagle, Rockford Register Star and several sponsors that preferred to remain anonymous. We are also very grateful to the 70+ local merchants that donated gifts to the silent auction and raffle, and to The Shufflers, an outstanding musical trio!

Thanksgiving Distribution

Your Support Touched A Life

Thank you to all who have contributed to our family Thanksgiving food box drive. Your support was outstanding, and it allowed us to provide extra food including a gallon of milk, fresh potatoes, extra vegetables and stuffing, and a pumpkin pie, to every one of the 350 boxes that were registered for in October. The distribution is scheduled for November 18th and with the help of a small volunteer army, every one of those food boxes will be on its way to help a family have a memorable Thanksgiving meal.

Yes, I want to make a difference!

Amount $_______________________

Yes, I want to make a difference!

--- Payroll deduction with employer match

Peanut Butter Endowment

The Gift That Lasts Forever

Yes! We have reached a benchmark in the donations to the Peanut Butter Endowment thanks to the generous support of donors, memorials, and honorariums. Because of your generosity, our milk program for older adults continues! On average, we distribute 300 gallons each month to adults 65+. Over 328 donors have already committed to making an older adult’s day a whole lot better!

Your gift is held in a restricted, endowed fund and only a small percentage of the interest earned is used to purchase food. Contact us today for more information or to make a donation.

Yes, I want to make a difference!

--- Payroll deduction with employer match

This is kind of embarrassing but I’m at a point where there is nothing in my fridge. Thank you guys for helping me!

- Phil J.

I didn’t think I’d be here today asking for help, but here I am. I’m just glad you can help me.

- Dillon S.
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