RRVP Mission Statement:
Rock River Valley Pantry fights hunger in the community by providing food to those in urgent need.

It’s Easy To Make a Difference- Become A Donor!
- Monetary gift
- Volunteer
- Food Rescue
- Warehouse
- Client intake
- Client selection
- Garden

Did you know that you can:
Donate online today, go to www.RRVP.org.

What time is it?
Peanut Butter Rally Time!
Help us provide 20,000 jars of peanut butter and jelly to the families that need our services during the summer months when school is on break.

Kids that are eligible for a free school lunch are at greater risk of going hungry when school is out. With your help we can provide a jar of peanut butter in every food bag which may provide peanut butter toast for breakfast or a fast pb & j sandwich at lunch time.

Our long time sponsor, Gerber Collision & Glass, will host a wrap up event for the public on June 7th at their two local stores.

“Gerber Collision & Glass is proud of the ongoing support and generosity shown by our teams in Illinois and Indiana over the past 11 years and we’re all-in to make 2019 even better,” said Eric Olhava, Gerber Regional Vice President - Operations. “We recognize the important role of the Rock River Valley Pantry and we’re committed to making a difference in the communities we serve.”

20,000 jars are needed by June! Your donation of $20 will help buy approximately one case of peanut butter. If you prefer to host a Peanut Butter Rally drive, contact our office at 815-965-2466 and we’ll drop off a barrel for your collection. Your immediate response will insure we have enough peanut butter on hand when school lets out in June.

February Client Participation Increased
In February we had an increase of 30% in client use compared to February 2018.

Thanks to you we assisted more than 2,700 households in which more than 5,880 individuals resided.

Our mission is to provide four days’ worth of nutritious food; and months with unexpected increases can deplete our resources quickly. On average we distribute 13,000 cans of vegetables and 3,000 boxes of cereal every month and sometimes it is necessary to put a plea out to the community for additional help.
Could You Be A Client One Day?
The majority of our clients use the Pantry 1-3 times in a year. They find themselves in emergency mode as they try to provide food for themselves and/or their family. For some it’s one missed paycheck, or an unforeseen bill, that can cause the household to be in need of food.

I work seasonally, and when I’m working, I work really hard. But, this ain’t the time people need roofs! So, here I am. Thank you for running the pantry and for the food that I receive. Hopefully when I start back to work I can make a donation. – Jack

I work full time for a local fast food restaurant and my husband is in construction. His work is seasonal and so right now we need a little bit of help. We are covering all of our other bills, we just need help with food. Thanks for the help. – Terri

I work for a home care agency which helps a lot of older adults. Today I’m picking up food for one of my clients. She is older and receives some assistance, plus social security, yet she still needs some help with food. – Shaniqua

Would You Like Your Dollar To Go Further?
When considering how best to help, please consider a monetary gift.

Meet Super Hero-RRVP Volunteer, Bob Pauwels
Bob Pauwels has been volunteering at the RRVP for 19 years. He started out assisting clients obtain their prepackaged grocery boxes and now helps them transfer their groceries from the mini shopping carts to their cars. Retired from the manufacturing world, where he was a mechanical engineer and a member of the management team, he and his wife successfully raised seven children, and are now grandparents to nine.

Bob shared, “The Pantry clients are respectful and grateful for the help they receive. I work with a great group of volunteers on Wednesday afternoons and the RRVP is a super place to donate my time. I like volunteering here because the RRVP is very client oriented.”

Go Fund Me Effort Under Way!
To Mooooooooove Milk We Need Your Help!
You know your phone is within arm’s reach, or your computer is already on, so why not go to the RRVP’s Go Fund Me page at www.gofundme.com/milk-for-kids-and-seniors.

If 1,000 people will donate just $20 we can buy a year’s worth of milk. We are distributing almost 400 gallons a week! Donate today, share with family and friends, and make a difference!

“How DO You Distribute 1.2 Million Pounds of Food a Year?”

Here’s a snapshot of a single day at the RRVP.

7:30 a.m. Warehouse operations kick in with the loading of our Transit van for the distribution/donation/retail rescue route. Included are the prepacked groceries and perishable food items to be delivered to our morning distribution site. Also on the van are barrels to be dropped off for food drives, and empty boxes waiting to be filled with donations from our local grocery retail partners. On average, five or more grocery stores are scheduled for donation pick-ups. Grocers donate produce, breads, desserts, meat, and dairy items.

8:00-Noon Staff and volunteers arrive at our 421 S. Rockton location and ready for the day. Final revisions are made to the van driver’s route. Daily tasks are underway. Volunteers begin arriving to help restock the Choice shelves in the pantry area, and take on a multitude of jobs in the warehouse, including sorting, inspecting, labelling, stickers of frozen foods, restocking dry goods and perishables, receiving of donated and purchased food goods, and maintaining a clean and organized warehouse.

10:00-Noon At our Broadway and 7th St. location prepacked family sized food boxes, along with perishable items, are distributed to clients by volunteers. Over the next two hours two volunteers will assist 25% of the average 6,000+ clients we see monthly.

12:30-4:00 The 421 S. Rockton location opens for distribution. Volunteers check-in and work as registrars, help clients through the selection process, restock shelves, coolers, and freezers, and assist clients to their vehicles with their groceries. On average the volunteers distribute food for 4,500 clients per month from this site. In the spring, summer and fall months, volunteers are working in our 28 raised bed organic garden. They are planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting nutritious produce for the clients.

2:00-4:00 Our van returns and the driver, volunteers, and warehouse staff begin the off-loading process. All community donated items are weighed and placed into a holding area where they’re inspected for code dates, food recall, and tampering. Retail donations are sorted, weighed, and properly stored. Some items are moved directly into the Choice room for client distribution.

4:30 End of day. All perishable items are safely stored. Warehouse, lobby, Choice room, and offices are cleaned and ready for the next day!

Presidents’s Message
Do you resist or embrace change?
I have been waiting for the weather to change since mid-January. We have seen cold, snow, and ice and I need a change. Today it is a beautiful spring like day, a change I very much embrace. It seems to me many people resist change. Change makes many people feel like they have lost control of their life. The older I get the more I try to embrace change. I try to look at change as an opportunity. I believe that if your moral compass is pointing in the right direction change will make you grow as a person. I believe the same is true with organizations.

The Rock River Valley Pantry’s moral compass has always pointed in the direction of helping those in need by putting food on their table. That mission does not change. The volunteers, the staff, the donors, the board, and even the clients that use the pantry have changed in the past and will continue to change in the future. Let us use these changes in the future as an opportunity to grow as people but remain true to the mission of helping those in need. I have seen many changes over my 10 years of involvement with the Pantry and I believe the pantry continues to grow stronger. I would like to thank everyone who makes the Pantry work. I know in the future we will continue to embrace change and grow.