Looking Ahead...

Like many, we wish we knew what the future holds for our agency and the people that need our assistance, but for planning purposes we anticipate the following:

- Food donations will continue to decrease.
- Prices will increase for the food that we need to purchase.
- A steady increase in new households needing services will continue.
- Volunteer opportunities will be available for those interested in helping.
- Our community will continue to come together to alleviate food insecurity!

New Client Impact On The RRVP

We are here for you now, and we’ll be here for you tomorrow. The RRVP has been providing service to people in our community since 1975. During our 40+ years we have provided food to people in need during the highest unemployment rates in the nation, loss of major manufacturing jobs in Winnebago County, the Great Recession, sluggish economies, and now a world-wide pandemic. When you need us we will be here to provide emergency food relief! For more information check out our website for distribution hours and locations or call us at 815.965.2466. We will pick up the phone Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 4:30pm.

Chip In For Hunger Golf Play Day

Let’s have fun, let’s be safe, let’s Chip In For Hunger! The RRVP’s first golf outing will be held on May 17th at Forest Hills Country Club. “Fore”-some will play a scramble format, and may choose to participate in the “chip-in” contest and/or enter other fun events and raffles. Lunch is included as part of the afternoon’s activities. Entry fee of $100 includes golf, cart, and lunch.

Opportunities are available for hole sponsors, at $125/hole, which fund our Got Milk 4 Kids program, or become one of our premier event sponsors. Event sponsor levels include Eagle, Par, and Bogie, ranging from $1,000—3,000, which helps offset the cost of the event. Special golf and marketing packages are included based on the sponsorship level.

To register or become a sponsor contact the RRVP, before May 13th, at 815.965.2466.
Peanut Butter and Jelly Rally
It’s back! The Peanut Butter & Jelly Rally kicks off on May 1st with a goal of 20,000 jars of peanut butter and jelly by mid-June. Help us meet basic food needs for families with school aged children once school is out for the summer. Donation of $20 will buy a 12 pack of 18 oz jars of peanut butter.

Volunteers are needed!
Whether you have 2 hours or 8 hours a week to give to helping others in your community we have a role for you! Seasonally we need gardeners to help water, sow, transplant and harvest. Year round, we need your help with food distribution. Whether you’re working in the warehouse, collecting food donations, registering clients, gathering the client food orders, or packing food bags we will keep you busy!

Who do we thank?

Donors
Make it possible for the RRVP to purchase the food we are in most urgent need of in order to provide four days’ worth of food, up to two times a month, to people in our community that need assistance. Donors include individuals, churches, organizations, businesses, foundations, and grant funders. Those that donate food are just as important to us and we thank them and the local retailers that donate dairy, dry goods, meat, and produce.

Volunteers
Truly the backbone of our agency as they work on the food rescue, sorting and inspection of donated goods, registration, and distribution of the food, along with gardeners, and those which assist at special events. They give of their time and talent in many ways so as to provide food to our neighbors in need!

Clients
They are as unique as you and I. Their reasons for using a pantry vary and include sudden job loss, living at poverty level, being homeless, lifestyle change due to the pandemic, living on a fixed income, being under-employed, dealing with health issues, or an unexpected, unbudgeted expense. The clients help us to appreciate how fortunate we are and keep us humble.

Clients - Get to know me!

Mary, always the optimist, works part time for Walgreens, and has an adult son who has a disability. She has moved from a homeless shelter to renting where she enjoys watching mystery and science TV shows. Mary shared that while living in Harvard she helped bag potatoes at the local food bank. She shared that it made her feel really good to help others when she was volunteering.

Veteran of the Armed Services, Pete, served in Operation Desert Storm, and retired with 23 years in the Army Reserves. He owns his own home, is a widower, and is currently helping two individuals that would otherwise be homeless. He finds living on social security doesn’t always help him pay all his bills, and so he needs emergency food help at the end of the month. He loves cats and also use the services of Kibbles Korner, the emergency pet food pantry.

Laid off from a local metal finishing company Joey found himself in need of food for his family. “My kids would eat you out of house and home.” I had to come to the Pantry for food. While holding a degree in Business Administration from EIU, he hopes to go back to work soon. This divorced dad is raising his two children and finds a little time to enjoy music and news programs on TV.

While Eileen has had some college classes, she found herself under-employed and now due to the pandemic, out of work. Currently this single, cat loving lady is renting a home in the Rockford area while looking for work. This was her first visit to the RRVP for emergency food.

Due to the impact that the pandemic has had on the school system, Julie, a married school bus driver, has had her hours reduced. She finds that she is running low on resources as she deals with the impact of less income, yet this homeowner is still caring for two senior family members, two dogs and a cat. Julie hasn’t used the Pantry in over a year and a half, and only comes when really needs assistance.

This NFL fan, Thomas, works for UPS. Because of the post-holiday shipping decline he isn’t working as much. He’s currently single, but a dad to a 3 and 9 year old. Thomas graduated from high school, loves to play basketball, and enjoy watching shows on HBO. This was Thomas’s fourth visit, this year, to the RRVP.

President’s Message
Dear friends,
A Rock Valley College student who was concerned about hunger, conceived of the idea of collecting food and distributing it to needy families in the Rockford community. The doors of the Rock River Valley Pantry opened for the first time, in 1974, to individuals in urgent need of food. What a legacy!

That legacy continues today because of donors, volunteers, staff and board members. The RRVP Board of Directors continue to be faithful to our Core Values here at the pantry. Those values are:
• To serve clients with respect and dignity
• To provide quality food for balanced meals
• To be accountable to donors
• To involve volunteers
• To partner with other hunger agencies
• To educate the community regarding hunger issues

Let’s keep this legacy strong by donating monetary gifts and food, participating in our fundraising efforts, and volunteering. The RRVP is a little bit of heaven on earth for individuals in need of urgent food, because of you.

The RRVP Board of Directors thank you for all you do to help fight hunger in the community.

Dorice Royce
RRVP Board President