



421 S. Rockton Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61102

Call us at 815.965.2466  
or visit [www.rrvp.org](http://www.rrvp.org)  
and donate today!



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### 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!



#### RRVP Mission Statement:

Rock River Valley Pantry fights hunger in the community by providing nutritious food to those in urgent need.

*YES, I want to help the Rock River Valley Pantry provide food to those in need!*

\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_ Sign me up for monthly giving plan!

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Please charge my credit card: \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MC \_\_\_ DISC

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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• Make checks payable to:  
Rock River Valley Pantry  
421 S. Rockton Ave.  
Rockford IL 61102

• To charge a gift by phone please  
call 815.965.2466

• To make a gift online go to [www.RRVP.org](http://www.RRVP.org)

• The RRVP is a 501c3



Please cut and mail back in the envelope provided in this newsletter!

### Need Help?

If you don't know where your next meal is coming from, or if you are unsure how you are going to feed your family, then contact us! We are here for you and your family!

### Want to Help?

Make a donation today, host a food drive, volunteer your time, or support the Peanut Butter Endowment. Your support today could mean someone has food tomorrow!



The Newsletter of the Rock River Valley Pantry | Northern Illinois' Largest Community Food Pantry | Fall 2021

# Food for thought

FIGHTING HUNGER ONE MEAL AT A TIME

### Where we are, where we are going!

We continue to meet the needs of the Winnebago County clients that are in need of emergency food. Thanks to all our donors and supporters during our recent fiscal year we assisted 5,272 households, with client visits totaling more than 32,800. Our focus remains on providing nutritious food that meets the USDA recommended food groups for at least four days'.



As we move into our current fiscal year we are offering twice monthly visits for the clients. We will continue to pursue grants and gifts that will allow us to purchase the food that we are in most urgent need of, and that complements the food donations that we receive from local grocers, food drives, and individuals. Partnering with other human service agencies to bring programs and assistance to our clients will remain a focus.



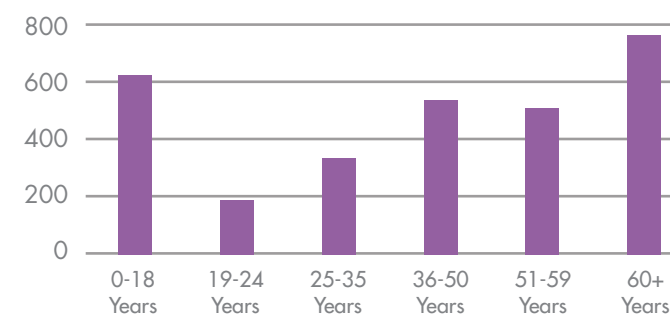
### FY21 Client numbers

Times are changing-again. This past year we had more than 32,000 total visitors that were provided with four days of food. We will remain fluid as we adjust to the many needs that the clients have for emergency food during the pandemic. With the Delta strain now impacting the community we will do what it takes to protect our volunteers, staff, and clients in order to keep our doors open and continue to provide much needed services.

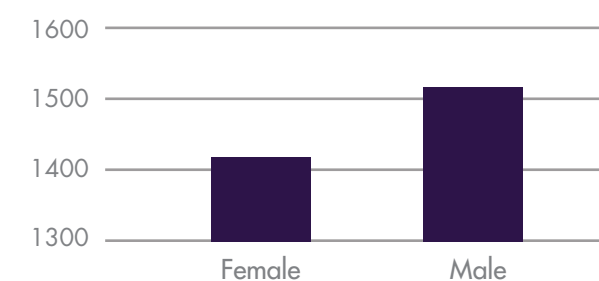
#### First quarter visits: July-September 2021

We recently completed the first quarter of the new fiscal year. Two of the most vulnerable populations, children and older adults, were the majority of users at our two locations.

#### 1st Quarter Client Use by Age Group



#### 1st Quarter Clients By Gender







## Where we've been!

After 45 years assisting the hungry we recently celebrated our 10th year in our 421 S. Rockton location. This celebration has given us time to pause and consider all that we have accomplished as a community based pantry.

This location has helped us to fulfill our mission to provide emergency food for more than 500,000 visits!

### Additionally we have:

- Helped children in need of clothing,
- Provided pet owners emergency pet food
- Offered free flu shots
- Distributed more than 4,500 Thanksgiving food boxes
- Grew more than 35,000 pounds of organic produce from our garden
- Became a site for people with disabilities to gain work experience
- Hosted a free pet wellness clinic
- Hosted food demonstrations and classes
- And provided food to partners that made deliveries to older adults during the pandemic

### Partnered with community-minded agencies to:

- Register clients for GED program
- Host multiple voter registration efforts
- Host census takers that enrolled Winnebago residents
- Provide food filled backpacks to at-risk elementary school age children
- Assisting with the Rockford police department and the City's Human Services department with emergency food to households with transportation barriers

## 980,000 Pounds of Food Distributed!

Did you know we distributed almost one million pounds of food during our last fiscal year. If you are making a donation for the first time consider a monetary donation as it helps us buy the food we need the most. If you choose to host a food drive you too will make a difference to someone going hungry. Thanks to you we can continue to provide needed food!

## Thanksgiving Food Box— Helping Families in the 815

Because of the community support that we receive, and a grant from Woodward, this year's Thanksgiving food box distribution will help 500 pre-registered families. Thanks to the generosity of donors the RRVP has hosted this community program for over 25 years to insure that families in need have an opportunity to celebrate a family focused holiday meal featuring a typical all-American dinner.



## President's Message

Greetings from the RRVP Board of Directors,

It has been a fruitful and bountiful summer here at the pantry. I want to thank Barb Flores (Garden Coordinator) and volunteer gardeners that work each week here at the pantry. You are the reason for such beautiful produce and the garden. I also want to give thanks to our backyard gardeners and farmers in the surrounding area which donate their harvest to the RRVP.

I have the opportunity to see the garden before I enter the pantry each Friday. I have watched the garden burst with beauty and delight on the corner of Cedar and South Rockton Ave. this summer. Barb and her volunteer gardeners worked very hard keeping groundhogs out, watering and picking different produce from the garden for our clients each week. The garden also provides our clients a chance to learn about produce and for the volunteers to talk to former gardeners about gardening. What joy it has brought us all! Now the crops have been harvested, and the results have been bountiful.

I also want to thank our donors and volunteers for all that you do for us here at the pantry. It is because of you, that we can reap such a great harvest each year.

Happy Fall and Happy Thanksgiving,

*Dorice Royce*

RRVP Board President



## Endowment—A Lasting Legacy

Our Peanut Butter Endowment has a goal of \$750,000 this year which allows us to annually withdraw four percent of the proceeds for food purchases. These funds help to smooth out ups and downs in the yearly donations and grants and hedge against uncertainty. With endowment donation at any level, you are leaving a lasting legacy that will fund the organization for years to come.

## Board Commitment/Training

Our Board of Directors strives to be the best they can be! This past October, the leadership from the Northern Illinois Centre for Nonprofit Excellence led a discussion with our Board members on legal duties, fiduciary responsibilities, roles, responsibilities, expectations, and governance. The volunteer Board of Directors represents our donors and their wishes to be diligent with their support while making the best decisions for the short and long term impact on the client needs.

## Breakfast 815 GoFundMe—Breakfast of Champions

Our Breakfast of Champion GoFundMe efforts will allow us to provide balanced and nutritious breakfast food items to the pantry clients. Thank you to Associated Bank, our major sponsor, and to the local media and champions that helped us promote this effort. Our goal of \$30,000, while challenging, will help our clients start their day in the best way-with a full belly! It's not too late if you want to make a difference. Check out our GoFundMe Breakfast 815 page.

