



421 S. Rockton Avenue
Rockford, IL 61102

Call us at 815.965.2466
or visit www.rrvp.org
and donate today!



Non profit Org.
US Postage
Paid
Perm, it No. 804
Rockford, IL

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tiffany Bates, Secretary
Gabby Bauch
Jon Bauch
Ken Buss
Dave Denowh
Kira Devin
Sean Grennan, Treasurer
Rick Holm
Jenny Howell
Colin Hurka
Cindy Leib
Fred Lierman
Esther Lodge
Lori Mack
Larry Rowlett
Dorice Royce
Amy Sola
Reggie Tillmon, 1st Vice Pres.
Kathy Walls
Ron Welte, President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kim AdamsBakke

Did you know?

- RRVP spends .94 of every dollar on Program Services
- RRVP operates two locations
- RRVP has 100+ active volunteers
- RRVP helps Winnebago County residents
- RRVP has been operating for 48 years
- RRVP's mission is to fight hunger in the community. By providing nutritious food to those in urgent need.



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 _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

- 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
- 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?

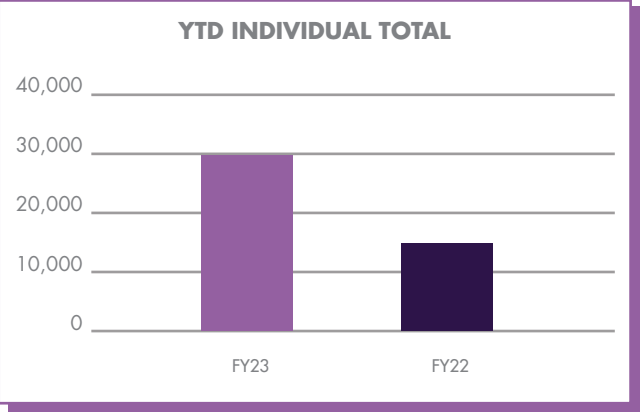
Make a donation today, host a food drive, volunteer your time, or support the Peanut Butter Endowment. Your support today could mean someone has food tomorrow!



Food for thought

FIGHTING HUNGER ONE MEAL AT A TIME

The Numbers Keep Climbing



Currently, the Rock River Valley Pantry continues to see the need increase for emergency food. Compared to February of last year, our client use has increased by 82%. Yet, thanks to thoughtful donors, retail rescue, dedicated volunteers, Board leadership, and committed staff, we have been able to meet the need.

Beginning this fiscal year, through February, we have provided food for more than 29,700 client visits. Each visit offers up to four days of nutritious food, appropriate for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Children are

30% of our client base, and adults 65+ are now 13% of the base. We strive to offer healthy selections from which the client may choose for themselves and their household.

Did you know that 14% of Winnebago County residents, and 22% of Rockford residents live at or below the federal poverty level? We believe client use will continue to rise due to the increase in cost of living. Our older adult population, who are food insecure, continue to increase the most, as they tend to have limited income and diverse needs.



Peanut Butter and Jelly Rally Time

Once again, the PB & J Rally is on! Our goal is to have 20,000 jars of peanut butter or jelly in our warehouse by the first week in June. This allows us to put a jar in every food box during the summer months when kids are out of school-and hungry! Call today for a collection barrel to be dropped off for your PB & J drive or make a monetary donation and we'll buy a case of peanut butter (\$26) or a case of jelly (\$20) at wholesale pricing. Call us today at 815-965-2466 to schedule your PB & J drive!



Thank you to our sponsors, Gerber Collision & Glass and 23WIFR!





President's Message

As food costs rise, along with the higher prices for basic needs facing all of us in our community, the Pantry has been experiencing a steady and significant increase in our weekly client numbers. This uptick in client usage has been expected, as the RRVP Board members

recognized in late 2021, that at some point in time the COVID-related increase in SNAP benefits and other subsidies would end. However, no one predicted the sharp increase in food costs and its lack of availability.

As reported in the Fall 2022 Newsletter, the Board had embarked earlier in the year to formulate a Three (3) Year Strategic Plan that will enable the Pantry to successfully meet its Mission Statement "The RRVP fights hunger in the community by providing nutritious food to those in urgent need".

Our Strategic Plan was formally completed in February 2023 with a focus on maintaining and enhancing a solid source of funds through grants, sponsorships, fundraising events, donor support, and our Peanut Butter Endowment. The plan also reinforces the absolute need for the Pantry to continue in its efforts to secure nutritious food items for our clients, while also anticipating possible food availability in the future and adjusting our inventory as such. Annual Client Surveys will be conducted in our efforts to determine the clients' nutritional needs and what improvements may need to be explored in our operations, as well as in preferred food choices.

One glowing highlight of our Strategic Plan is the recently completed remodeling of our Broadway satellite pantry location. A renovation that was sorely needed for our clients that we serve in the 61104 zip code area. A client base that accounts for 1/4 of our total overall client usage. An area of Rockford that the Pantry foresees as a potential growing need for our services.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the passion, dedication and commitment of our volunteers and staff which they project every day in helping our community through their examples of grace, kindness and respect.

Ron

Ron Welte
Board President
Rock River Valley Pantry

Plant A Row For The Hungry!



Calling all backyard gardeners! Please consider planting one extra row of vegetables this spring and donating your harvest to the RRVP. We focus on offering healthy and fresh produce to our Pantry clients and you can help us with our mission! In 2022, backyard gardeners donated more than 20,000 lbs. of fresh produce. Our clients love the opportunity to select the just-picked, sun-kissed, bounty from your garden. Our own garden will soon be busy, as our team of gardeners gets underway planting the raised bed, organic garden located at 421 S. Rockton, next to our office. If you have a green thumb, and want to volunteer, let us know. An extra pair of hands is always welcome!



TIM, FAMILY OF 2

Fighting Food Insecurity

On average, we assist 4,500 clients per month. Our clients range from babies to 93 years young. Each person is unique and has different needs. We distribute more than 10,000 cans of vegetables, 1,500 gallons of milk, 2,500 loafs of bread and/or buns, and 3,900 pounds of meat each month, in addition to many other food staples. We strive to provide nutritious food from which the clients select from to feed themselves and their family members. Households may select up to four days' worth of food on a monthly basis, and if needed a second visit can be arranged.



72 YEAR OLD FIRST TIME CLIENT



TIMOTHY, FAMILY OF 7



JUDY, FAMILY OF 3

ROCK RIVER VALLEY PANTRY

CHIP IN FOR HUNGER
presented by
ROCK RIVER VALLEY PANTRY

Spring fundraiser is
just around the corner!

GOLF PLAY DAY
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023

Forest Hills Country Club | 5135 Forest Hills Road, Rockford IL
12 pm Lunch, Auction & Contests | 1 pm Shot Gun Scramble Start
Registration Fee of \$100 Includes Golf, Cart, Lunch & Appetizers

Chip in for Hunger, our annual golf play day needs you! Whether you are a serious golfer, or a duffer, you can help provide for those that are food insecure by playing a round of golf! Have fun while helping others! Sponsorship opportunities are available ranging from Hole Sponsors to Event Sponsors. Don't delay, come out, and play!

Thank you
to our sponsors!

Associated Bank

IBEW/NECA
POWERING AMERICA