

Around the Table

You're Feeding the Hungry
in Eastern Wisconsin!

Help us go green!
Sign up for our e-newsletter
at www.feedingamericawi.org



Look Inside
to see how
your gifts are
changing the
lives of hungry
children and
families!

Spring 2011


**FEEDING
AMERICA**
Eastern Wisconsin

Formerly named
America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin

Your Donations are Helping Build a Community



A volunteer helps move boxes (left); Anita Ellis with a box of donated food (center); food boxes to be distributed (right)

Anita Ellis visits the Islamic Community Center in Milwaukee each Tuesday. She has been on disability since 1999 and goes to the community center to socialize with her friends. When she leaves in the afternoon, she feels blessed; not only for the caring friends, but also for the box of food she takes home from the community center's food pantry.

“A lot of times we don’t have enough boxes of food to give out.”

Kissha Riley-Hendriks, Volunteer

“The Islamic Community Center Food Pantry is different because you can visit once a week which plays a big part of making ends meet.” Ellis’ three grown children still live with her and are working part-time jobs that pay just above minimum wage. They have been unable to find full-time work. While Ellis lives on a limited budget and struggles to pay the bills every month, she is still upbeat. “I never have to worry about getting food. It’s a blessing.” said Ellis.

Like everyone who visits the Islamic Community Center, Ellis feels the genuine respect of the pantry organizers, “It’s nice to know that somebody cares about the little person, and respects someone who lives on a fixed income.”

“People who come to the pantry volunteer to help in some way - sorting food or moving boxes,” said Kissha Riley-Hendriks, one of the main organizers of the Islamic Community Center Food Pantry.

The pantry started about 18 months ago giving away about 30 boxes a week. Now they’re giving away over 150 boxes each week. “A lot of times we don’t have enough boxes of food to give out,” said Riley-Hendriks.

When the food pantry opens its doors each week the floor is covered with food boxes for the clients to take home. The

food boxes contain a variety of foods including produce, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meats, soups, breads and other baked goods.

The food pantry isn’t able to distribute some perishable foods, like meat, in large quantities because they don’t have the cooler and freezer space to store these foods before distribution. They’re hoping to remodel the small kitchen in their building which would allow them to start a meal program and provide them adequate freezer and cooler space.

Riley-Hendriks’ job has many facets. She picks up food from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, takes it to the pantry, sorts it and organizes the paperwork for the clients. She works over 20 hours a week - for free. “It feels good to volunteer. I meet a lot of people and the community really needs it.” •

Working to Make Ends Meet



Anita Jones at Unity Baptist Pantry

For Anita Jones helping others comes naturally. That's why she became a nurse's assistant. She works over 40 hours a week and is good at what she does. But she still can't make ends meet for her family of seven.

Her husband has been looking for work for quite a while. He's been very helpful making dinners and helping the kids with their homework after school, while looking for work during the day.

The Jones family is just one example of the many families who are working hard and still struggling to make ends meet in this difficult economy. Jones visits Unity Baptist Church once a month to get a food box. With five kids, ranging in age from 4 to 16 years old, the food box she brings home is appreciated.

Jones is diabetic and has to watch what she eats. The variety of food she receives from the food pantry helps. Normal food pantry boxes include: bread, canned goods, meat, cereal and juice. "We love to get the fresh fruits and vegetables when they're available," said Jones.

Volunteers at the food pantry help everyone take their food boxes up the narrow stairs from the basement food pantry and out to their cars or carts. Jones takes her food box home on the bus before heading back to work for her second work shift of the day. Jones is hopeful that they won't need the extra help from the food pantry after her husband starts working again.

Until then, Jones wants everyone who donates to know, "Whatever you can do, we appreciate it! I will keep you in my prayers."•

As Jones was getting ready to leave the pantry, she received a bit of good news. Her husband was hired as a nurse's assistant and will be back to work within two weeks.

Food for the Holidays Thank You



Thank you for your support of our Food for the Holidays campaign. Your generous donations provided 814,000 meals for children, families and seniors struggling with hunger.

A special thank you to our campaign partner, Associated Bank. Volunteers from Associated Bank took pledges during phone banks and helped collect food throughout the campaign.



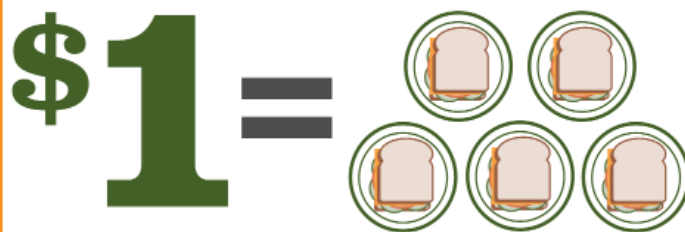
2011 Boy Scout Food Drive

Thank you to the Boy Scouts for their efforts in the annual Boy Scout Food Drive! Boy Scouts went door to door on Saturday, March 26th gathering donations. This year they collected an amazing 132,000 pounds of food!

Text to Give

Looking for an easy way to donate \$10 to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin? You can now text to give and your donation will go directly on your cellular phone bill.

Text MEALS to 85944



Grateful Plate

Mark your calendars for the Fifth Annual Grateful Plate dinner and auction to benefit Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. This year's event will take place Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at the Wisconsin Club.

The evening begins at 5 p.m. and features a silent auction, live entertainment and dinner. All proceeds from Grateful Plate support our mission of feeding the hungry.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 8, 5 p.m.

WHERE: The Wisconsin Club
900 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee

CONTACT: Jenny Mendenhall at 414-831-6345 or
jmendenhall@feedingamericawi.org



New Name, Same Mission

While our name has officially changed to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, our mission remains the same — feeding the hungry. Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin supplies food to 1,100 food pantries, shelters and meal programs who feed nearly 330,000 people in eastern Wisconsin. Please join us in Feeding America.

Visit our website, www.feedingamericawi.org to learn more.

1700 W. Fond du Lac Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53205

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