

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 donations
are helping
families and
veterans make
ends meet.



Winter 2011


**FEEDING
AMERICA**
Eastern Wisconsin

Formerly named
America's Second Harvest of Wisconsin

Your Donations Provided Holiday Meals for Families in Need



The week before Christmas, A Time is Now Food Pantry in Walworth County served 101 families. (Jim Dresher, center)

On the Wednesday before Christmas there wasn't an open parking spot at the WC Recourse Center where A Time Is Now Food Pantry resides in Lake Geneva. The upper level of the resource center resembles a doctor's office waiting room.

That Wednesday, every seat was taken and there were small children playing with toys in a corner of the room. Between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m., the food pantry served 101 families providing them with enough food to ensure they had a warm holiday meal.

“I saw the need. I wanted to help people who were on their last hope.”

Jim Dresher, A Time is Now Food Pantry

While George Racznyski didn't have presents under his Christmas tree, his family did have food from the food pantry for a Christmas meal. Racznyski, a truck driver, experienced a series of cut backs in his hours over the last two years. His position was completely eliminated in 2010. His wife was supporting the family until she had knee surgery. Due to complications from the surgery, she could no longer work. Their health insurance refused to pay for the surgery, leaving the family struggling to find a way to pay the \$125,000 hospital bill.

“Try to be positive – gotta stay positive,” is Racznyski's motto. “I've been coming here most of the year,” he said. He'd like to go back to work to be able to give back, but

is unable to find work and has become his wife's primary caregiver. Through it all, A Time is Now “has been very helpful with groceries. The people are always helpful.”

Each month the Racznski family, and families just like his, receive grocery bags filled with pasta, rice, beans, frozen pizzas, bread, cereal, meat and canned goods including vegetables, fruit, stew, soup, tuna and more.

“I saw the need. I wanted to help people who were on their last hope,” said Jim Dresher about why he started A Time is Now Food Pantry in May of 2009. Since opening, they have served over 6,000 families. On average, the pantry provides food to more than 500 families a month from their location on the outskirts of Lake Geneva.

The community recognizes the importance of the pantry and supports it in many ways. A local auto dealership provides maintenance for the pantry's truck. A local retailer allows them to store frozen goods in their freezer when the pantry's freezer is full. Individuals volunteer to help run the day-to-day operations of the pantry.

“When I was 16, I worked for Sentry to stock shelves. Now, at 60, I'm doing the same thing and working harder,” said Dresher. But it's all worth it when he hears clients who have just received their bags of groceries ask, “This is all for me?”

Dresher firmly believes, “It's good to give back.” •

Your Donations Feed Veterans



Dennis Johnson is the Executive Director of the Homeless Veterans Initiative

Dennis Johnson was entering the last few years of his working life and looking for a way to give back. His idea of volunteering a few hours a week quickly grew.

In 2008, Johnson started volunteering as a reading tutor at a homeless shelter. He found that Vietnam veterans made up a good portion of those he was tutoring. A Vietnam veteran himself, Johnson looked for other ways he could help his fellow veterans.

Over the last two years, Johnson has gone from tutoring a few hours a week to actively searching for homeless veterans. He helps the veterans find a place to live, furniture for their home and food. Some veterans have a small pension that pays for an apartment with little left over for food.

"I was in training for a year or two to run a pantry," said Johnson of his volunteer work with a pantry that works with Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. On December 7, 2010, Johnson and the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative opened a new food pantry in conjunction with St. John's Lutheran Church near the VA Hospital. The pantry receives food from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin and serves approximately 80 families a week with the majority being veterans.

"Sixty percent of the people who visit the pantry are 50 to 60 years old and formerly homeless veterans," said Johnson, Executive Director for the Homeless Veterans Initiative. The VA case workers have started referring veterans to the new pantry. "I perceive the number of families being served to grow with the knowledge of the pantry," said Johnson. •

Boy Scout Food Drive



Scouting for Food, the annual Boy Scout food drive, is right around the corner. Please fill the bag with nonperishable food items.

Please leave your grocery bags filled with food on your doorstep

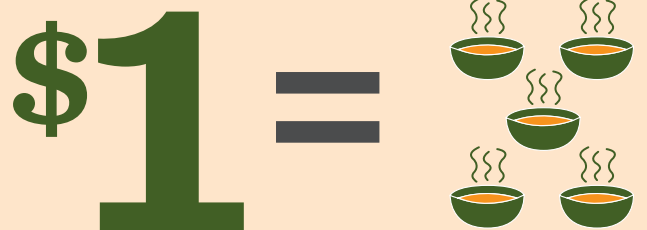
on Saturday, March 26 before 9 a.m. The Boy Scouts will pick up your bags. All food collected in Milwaukee County will benefit Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. Food collected in Waukesha and Racine County will benefit local food pantries. If your bag is not picked up, please take it to your local Pick 'n Save and place it in the marked barrel.

WHEN: March 26, 2011 Food Pick Up

Donate While Filing Your Taxes



Taxes can be complicated, but making a donation to help feed the hungry while doing your taxes, is easy. Wisconsin residents can donate \$1 or more to Feeding America food banks in the state by entering the amount on line 38i of the state income tax form. For more information see page 28 in the state tax instruction booklet. The funds donated will help feed the more than 573,000 people throughout the state of Wisconsin who rely on Feeding America food banks for their next meal.





Pound for Pound Challenge

We're excited to be involved in the Pound For Pound Challenge! Partnered with NBC's The Biggest Loser, General Mills, and Subway, to encourage Americans to "Lose Nationally, Feed Locally," the PFP challenge is easy, free and makes a huge impact. Simply sign up and pledge your weight loss goals at www.pfpchallenge.com. For every pound you pledge, the Pound for Pound Challenge will donate one pound of groceries.

The more pledges we have, the more funds we receive. Please help us by signing up now at pfpchallenge.com! Remember to encourage others to sign up, too! •

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 will continue to supply 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.

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