

# Around the Table

You're Feeding the Hungry  
in Eastern Wisconsin!

## Look Inside

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



Winter 2010

  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

Eastern Wisconsin

Formerly named America's  
Second Harvest of Wisconsin

# Your Donations are Feeding the Hungry at Cross Lutheran Church



*Ed Eckhardt, Volunteer*



*Linda and Richard, Clients*



*Emma Ansh, Volunteer*

As you enter Cross Lutheran Church, you can hear the prayer coming from the room at the bottom of the stairs. Men and women line the stairs with their heads bowed waiting for an open seat. The sheer number of people in line for a warm meal in the cramped basement of Cross Lutheran Church is overwhelming.

"There are people here that would not have meals," said Emma Ansh. A volunteer for 18 years, Emma is now the volunteer in charge of the kitchen at Cross Lutheran Church's meal program. "Sometimes they eat out of the garbage can."

"I don't know where I would get food," said Pam Patterson. She works three days a week as a housekeeper and has to walk to the meal program from the home she shares with her sister and her niece. She has a message for the people who donate to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, "Thank you. I appreciate that you feed people that need to be fed."

Supported by volunteers and donations, Cross Lutheran Church feeds approximately 300 people every Wednesday. Their meal program and food pantry, also run on Wednesday afternoons, are supplemented by your donations to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

Like many others, Dorothy Means will receive a bag of donated food from the food pantry. The food in the bag will last anywhere from three days to possibly a week. Visiting the Cross Lutheran programs offers Means more than just a meal and a bag of groceries.

"I come here to eat and meet new people," said Means. "My family is spread out. The people at Cross Lutheran become like my family."

**"Thank you. I appreciate that you feed people that need to be fed."**

*Pam, Client*

The volunteers feel the same way, "Strong relationships develop with the volunteers and people," said Ed Eckhardt, a retired school superintendent and volunteer at Cross Lutheran for three and a half years.

"Coming here allows us to bring to those most in need," said Eckhardt. "You get a sense of the personal self worth and self dignity of the people at the meal program. They're not begging. They're thankful and appreciative of what the volunteers are able to garner."

"It's nice coming here. They reach out to you," said Richard Bohannon. Richard brought his adult niece, Linda Sanders, with him for the first time last year. The two have seen some tough financial times and are very appreciative of the food, support and friendly volunteers at Cross Lutheran Church's meal program and food pantry. "The people are always friendly and the food's good," said Sanders.

Bohannon invites those who support Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin to visit Cross Lutheran Church's meal program and food pantry to see for themselves how important the donations are, "Come here - it's a blessing." •

# New Study Reveals 40% More People Seeking Emergency Food Assistance



105,000 children in the eastern half of the state rely on food from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin.

“With the economy so bad and people in trouble, we have to do everything we can to help,” said James Taylor of Family House. Opened in 1986, Family House serves approximately 200 hot meals a day and distributes anywhere from 10 to 30 or more food baskets a day. Taylor explains how Family House is coping with the increase in demand, “We’ve had to

extend pantry hours to include Saturday and Sunday hours. We’re now seven days a week.”

The increase in need Family House is seeing is indicative of the increase in emergency food assistance that the entire country is experiencing. *Hunger in America 2010*, a new study released on February 2nd, reports that Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin is serving 40% more people than in 2006. 329,400 people including 105,000 children and 32,900 seniors are relying on emergency food assistance from Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin programs each year.

The tough economy and increase in unemployment has people making tough decisions when it comes to where they spend their money:

**54%** of adults seeking emergency food assistance have missed or cut back on meals in the past year because they didn’t have enough money to buy food.

**34%** have had to choose between buying food and paying rent or mortgage.

**58%** ate less than they should have because they did not have enough money to buy food in the last year.

“With job loss and economy, people are really in need,” said Willie Rogers of Unity Missionary Baptist Church. “Some people are coming for the first time, but we have a lot of repeats.” With an average of 130 visitors at the food pantry on Mondays and Wednesdays, Rogers said their increase in demand is up about thirty percent in the last year.

Over the last four years, the food pantries Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin supplies have seen a 69% increase in the number of clients they serve. Emergency kitchens and emergency shelters have seen a 57% and 64% increase respectively in the number of clients they serve.

To find out how you can help feed the hungry in eastern Wisconsin, please visit [www.feedingamericawi.org](http://www.feedingamericawi.org) or call **414-931-7400**.

## Scouting for Food



Scouting for Food, the annual Boy Scout food drive, is right around the corner. Boy Scouts will distribute plastic grocery bags on Saturday, March 20 in Milwaukee, Waukesha and Racine counties. Look for the grocery bag on your door. Please fill the bag with nonperishable food items such as canned

fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, canned soup, tuna, pasta, macaroni and cheese, cereal, rice, pancake mix, oatmeal, baby formula or baby food.

Please leave your grocery bags filled with food on your doorstep on Saturday, March 27 before 9 a.m. The Boy Scouts will return to 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.

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 27

## Grateful Plate



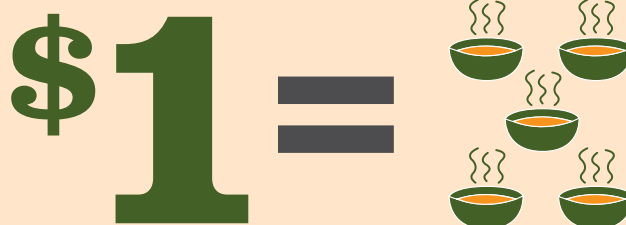
Mark your calendars for the Fourth Annual Grateful Plate dinner and auction to benefit Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin. This year’s event will take place Wednesday, June 2, 2010 at the Wisconsin Club.

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 2, 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Wisconsin Club, 900 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee

**CONTACT:** Jenny Mendenhall, at 414-831-6345 or [jmendenhall@feedingamericawi.org](mailto:jmendenhall@feedingamericawi.org).





## Help the Hungry While Doing 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 Wisconsin 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.

## 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](http://www.feedingamericawi.org) to learn more.

1700 W. Fond du Lac Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53205

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