



## The River Hours

## Monday &amp; Wednesday

Donations: 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

## Tuesday, Thursday &amp; Friday

Donations: 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

## Tuesday &amp; Thursday

Food Pantry & Clothing:  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Tuesday &amp; Thursday

Food Pantry, Clothing & Dinner:  
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

## Friday

Food Pantry, Clothing & Dinner:  
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
(Doors open at 5:00 p.m.)

The River is an equal opportunity provider.



## The River

Fall 2016

Quarterly Newsletter of The River Food Pantry

## When School Ends, Free Meals Won't

By Hannah Becker

While volunteers unload coolers full of sandwiches, cold milk and fresh vegetables from The River Food Pantry's van at the Woodland Park apartment complex parking lot, a young 4-year-old girl in a bright pink dress and a big smile on her face runs from the courtyard into Dani's arms for a hug. Dani is The River Food Pantry's Meal Service Coordinator.

In June 2016, The River Food Pantry launched a new mobile lunch program called Madison Urban Nutritional Children's Hotspot (MUNCH). While partnering with north side neighborhood leaders and residents, The River Food Pantry wanted to focus on feeding children and teens when the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) doesn't offer free breakfast and lunch.

MUNCH is providing healthy lunches to children and teens living in low-income households on the north side of Madison every Saturday, Sunday and all non-school days. With the help of volunteers, hundreds of sandwiches are being made at The River Food Pantry kitchen every Saturday morning.

Meals are then loaded into The River's van and distributed at north side neighborhoods that have limited resources for children and teens.

"It is not unlikely to have parents or guardians working one or more jobs to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table," Dani explains. "That is why community programs like MUNCH are so necessary, stepping up to help bridge the gaps between school days when children may not have the presence of an adult to prepare nutritious meals."

MUNCH was launched the first weekend in June at Woodland Park. By the end of the month, the number of children receiving a lunch doubled. Now, MUNCH is covering five north side neighborhoods daily. Once school starts they will provide meals every weekend and on non-school days. Additional low-income neighborhoods will be added as funding allows.

"Not only does MUNCH deliver meals to children on the north side," Dani explains. "The program also brings a sense of community. These children and families that participate in MUNCH go home

with the feeling of being valued, respected and cared for by society."

The goal for MUNCH is to cover eight neighborhoods and provide meals for 800 children, roughly half of the child population on the north side. The long term goal is to impact the lives of all 1,600 children living



Volunteers and parents help children receive nutritional meals from the MUNCH program when free school meals aren't available.

in low-income families on the north side of Madison.

To get more information on how you can help support MUNCH or volunteer, please send an email to [munch@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:munch@riverfoodpantry.org) or visit [www.riverfoodpantry.org](http://www.riverfoodpantry.org) and click the 'volunteer' tab.

The River Food Pantry  
2201 Darwin Rd.  
Madison, WI 53704

(608) 442-8815  
[www.riverfoodpantry.org](http://www.riverfoodpantry.org)  
[river@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:river@riverfoodpantry.org)

**Want to get email updates from The River?** Sign up on our website and be sure to add us to your contact list.

## Inside This Issue:

MUNCH	1
Thank You	1
The Directors	2
Pantry Needs and Hours	2
Share Tank	2
Hands of Hope	2
Volunteer	3
News Bites	3
Harvest Dinner	4

## Our Mission:

To bring a message of mercy and hope to those in need by providing nutritional basics and encouragement; to be a unifying, servant hearted and community building expression of Jesus Christ in Madison.

## Thank You For Your Support

## In the beginning of July, we asked for your help.

Our MUNCH program was growing and we were in desperate need of sturdy coolers. Our current coolers were unable to keep food cold for very long and also weren't easy to transport from neighborhood to neighborhood.

It didn't take long after our plea to receive donations specifically for our cooler fundraiser! With your help, we were able to purchase these heavy duty coolers on wheels which makes it easy to transport. Thank you for your generosity and helping us feed children and teens living in low-income households.



The new coolers help Dani and Jeff, the lunch program staff, transport meals to multiple northside neighborhoods.

**The River Food Pantry's Harvest Dinner For Hunger 2016**

**TACKLE HUNGER**

**Sunday, October 9th, 2016**

**3:30pm TAILGATE**  
Appetizers, cash bar, Silent Auction, Raffles, Games & Live Music by Beth Killie

**5:00pm GAME TIME**  
Dinner Live Auction & Program

**TICKETS \$65/Person \$520/Table of 8**  
Available Online: [riverfoodpantry.org](http://riverfoodpantry.org)

Over \$3.7 million worth of goods and services provided to families in need in 2015.  
38% of those served are children.  
\$20 feeds one family for a week.  
250 mobile lunches provided to kids in low income neighborhoods on the weekends.

**Meal Prepared by**  
The River Food Pantry

**The East Side Club**  
3735 Monona Drive  
Madison, WI



## Pantry Needs

### Non-Perishable Food:

- Canned Protein (Tuna, Chicken, Spam, etc.)
- Peanut Butter
- Canned or Boxed Pastas
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Veggies
- Cereal
- Hamburger & Tuna Helpers
- Soup
- Pasta
- Canned Pasta Sauces
- Baby Food
- Oatmeal

### Personal Items:

- Soap, Lotions, Toilet Paper, Diapers, Vitamins
  - Shampoo & Conditioner
- Anything and everything helps

### Donation Hours:

- Monday & Wednesday  
9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.



Who would have believed that The River would grow to be so large in 10 years. We certainly would not have. We thought that we would cap out at serving 100 families each week. Never did we expect the growth that so characterizes The River Food Pantry.

Summer has brought multiple changes to The River. We've had a very successful launch of our children's mobile lunch program. Our statistics tell us that so far in 2016 we have served 4% more people

## Word From The Directors: Andy & Jenny

than in 2015 and 5% more children. In September we will begin serving public lunches on

more with us.

**"We are growing our service, our staff and our volunteer hours"**

We are growing our services, our staff and our volunteer hours. All this growth means we are straining our resources, our equipment and our facility space.

It won't be long before we need to replace our older truck and begin replacement of our refrigeration units that are struggling with the load we place on them. We hope you are ready to grow some

Our warehouse space is over utilized and really crowded. We could really use additional off-site storage for non-food items. If you have any to donate please call us. Our wonderful staff is spending too much time reorganizing our current space on a daily basis.

We are so very grateful for our fantastic staff and your support of our programs. Together, let's make the second half of the year a real growth spurt for helping our neighbors in need.

97 cents of every dollar goes to providing food and services.

## Share Tank

Four summer interns at American Family Insurance selected The River Food Pantry as their nonprofit for "Share Tank". American Family Insurance's "Share Tank" project required ten teams of interns to select a local non-profit organization and interview its managers, identify a need for the business and then develop a solution to the need.

"Right away I knew I wanted to do The River Food Pantry for this project," intern Emmy Swift said. "I wanted to be involved with a non-profit that's hands-on with the people they are impacting."

Like the television program, "Shark Tank", the teams then created a proposal and pitched it to a panel of judges at the American Family Insurance headquarters on Thursday, July 28.

The team decided The River Food Pantry has out-grown its 11,000 square ft warehouse and a larger warehouse would make a huge impact for The River. During their presentation, intern Cyan Zhong said,

"Investing in a new warehouse for The River would provide a bigger roof for the community in need."

If you or someone you know would be interested in helping The River Food Pantry start planning for a new warehouse, contact Andy at [andy@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:andy@riverfoodpantry.org).

The River Food Pantry was proud to be part of "Share Tank" and all the work the interns put into this project.



Hannah and Amy from The River visited The American Family Insurance headquarters in July to support the team of interns that covered The River Food Pantry as their non-profit for Share Tank.

## Hands of Hope

Give monthly and be the hands of hope to our neighbors in need.



Join online at:  
[riverfoodpantry.org/donate](http://riverfoodpantry.org/donate)

## Volunteer

The River Food Pantry has volunteer opportunities for everyone this fall!

**Concessions:** Help The River raise money from concession stand sales at Badger football and basketball games. If you are interested, please call Andy at (608) 239-6283 or email [andy@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:andy@riverfoodpantry.org).

**Harvest Dinner:** Want to help at our signature fundraising event? Join our team to Tackle Hunger at this year's 7th annual Harvest Dinner on Sunday, Oct. 9th. The time commitment varies from 3-8pm.

Duties include helping with registration, assisting with the silent auction, selling raffle tickets, and serving appetizers and dinner. Please contact Amy Lord, [amy@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:amy@riverfoodpantry.org), for more

information.

**Food Drive Help:** Help The River by organizing a food drive! Hold a drive at your church, in your office, in your neighborhood or among a group of friends interested in helping our neighbors in need. Contact The River to schedule your drive today!

**Food, Meals and Clothing Help:** The River relies on volunteers to help staff five weekly pantry sessions.

The current volunteer schedule is

• Assist during a public shopping session: Tue & Thurs 11am-1pm and 4:30-6:30pm, Fri 4:50 - 8pm

• Assist with community meal preparation: Fri 1:30-3:30pm.

Must contact prior to date.

For more information, contact Rhonda Adams at [volunteer@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@riverfoodpantry.org).



**MUNCH Help:** Volunteers are needed for The River's new mobile lunch program, Madison Urban Nutritional Children's Hotspot (MUNCH).

The current volunteer schedule is

• Sat 9:30-11am for sandwich production

• Sat & Sun 11:15am-2pm for neighborhood lunch distribution

• Non-school days

Visit The River's website to sign up.



## Words From A Volunteer

"We are so grateful to The River for supporting so many and allowing us to lend a hand and make genuine connections with people in our community. We can all learn from each other and The River makes this possible on a daily basis."

- Jill from ZenDesk

## News Bites

**Harvest Dinner:** The River is accepting donations for the live and silent auction, pick a prize raffle and restaurant gift certificate raffle. Popular items include sporting event or entertainment tickets, gift cards from restaurants, spas, golf courses, and local businesses, and anything UW, Bucky Badger and Green Bay Packers. Please contact Hannah Becker, [hannah@riverfoodpantry.org](mailto:hannah@riverfoodpantry.org), to get more information. Tickets are also now available and

can be purchased online at [www.riverfoodpantry.org](http://www.riverfoodpantry.org) or with cash or check at the pantry.

### United Way Giving Campaign:

To support The River Food Pantry through the United Way giving campaign at your work place, you must specially designate us in the "option" box of the paper pledge form. Though The River does not appear on the list of partner agencies, you can still send your

charitable giving our way. Simply write in our agency number: 1232 and specify the dollar amount you want to send us under part "D". Your generous support through the United Way makes a difference.

**Donate Produce:** Help us fill our coolers full of fresh produce. Please consider donating your gardening surplus to The River where it will immediately find a good home.



Join the conversation in fighting hunger:

## Staff

### Administrative Assistant

Gina Leahy

### Communications

### Coordinator

Hannah Becker

### Development Director

Amy Lord

### Directors

Jenny and Andy Czerkas

### Driver

Sean Dilks

### Kitchen Manager

William Berkan

### Lunch Program Manager

Jeff Steckel

### Meal Services

### Coordinator

Dani Barker

### Operations Director

Rhonda Adams

### Pantry Manager

Dwayne Jordan

### Warehouse Coordinator

Jon Clark

**amazon smile**  
You Shop. Amazon Gives.

Shop online & support The River  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

Number of Households  
Served in Recent Months:

May 2016:

2,287 households

June 2016:

2,287 households

July 2016:

2,523 households

Your support makes this possible.  
**Thank You!**