

Spring 2018

The River Food Pantry
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The River Food Pantry is a non-profit 501(c)(3) Organization and your contribution is tax deductible.



The River Food Pantry

A lot has changed at The River Food Pantry since the doors opened to the public back in March, 2006. One thing hasn't changed though, the goal of The River has and always will be to end hunger and build a stronger community for all.

Over the years we have met countless individuals and families that came to The River for assistance during challenging times.

"I am the sole supporter for my two-year-old daughter," a shopper at The River Food Pantry shared. "My bills get paid and we always have food on our table because of the help I get from this place." The River currently provides groceries, clothing and hot meals to some 1,000 households each week.

In June 2016, The River launched a mobile lunch program, now known as MUNCH (Madison Unites To Nourish Children at Home).

In less than two years, the MUNCH program has expanded from providing lunches at one neighborhood, to distributing lunches in eight north side neighborhoods and an on-site MUNCH distribution during The River's Friday evening pantry session. MUNCH is ensuring that every child receives nutritious meals for the weekend. Every weekend MUNCH distributes over 1,000 lunches and soon will be distributing seven days a week during the summer months.

"The MUNCH lunches mean a lot for

these kids," Rita, a leader at the Packer Townhouses Community Center shared. "When their parents are at work during the summer months, I know many of these kids do not eat the healthy kind of food they need. This program makes a difference for these families."



With the help from volunteers, MUNCH distributed 4,481 nutritional lunches during spring break.

The River has no plans on slowing down the MUNCH program. There are still neighborhoods and children in the community that would benefit from MUNCH.

Supporters like you are the reason why The River Food Pantry is capable of providing these services. Every week The River picks up food from local grocery stores, receives donations from people and groups in the community, and has hundreds of dedicated volunteers help along the way.

"We couldn't do what we do here every week --- serving over 1,000 families through our combined services --- without dedicated volunteers," The River's Director of Advancement Rhonda Adams shared. "Many of them are like family to us."



President's Corner

Our annual Feed the Need event, a culinary tour of 20 of Madison's top restaurants, is coming up on April 22nd and I hope to see you all there! Why is it necessary to continue to feed the need? This past year 2017 was yet another record year in terms of service and impact that your support of The River has had within our community.

Together we provided 2.4 million pounds of food to 33,012 households (5% increase). We served 33,323 community meals (23% increase) and provided 65,946 MUNCH mobile lunch meals to children when they're out of school (532% increase). Clearly the need remains stronger than ever, and thanks to thousands of community members working together with purpose, The River remains stronger than ever. The River has always put people first, we welcome ALL with compassion and respect and provide dignity and hope to ALL who come through our doors. People come here because we provide a substantial amount of healthy and nutritious food, hot meals, and clothing with each visit. They come back because we love them. Together we feed the need and build a community that is strong for all.



Photo by Hovde Properties

The River, Connecting Community To Compassion

The River receives funding from Hovde Foundation but that's not the only way Hovde supports The River.

"We have prepared and served meals at The River for years, and I love it." Eric Hovde, CEO of Hovde Properties shared. "One of the best ways you can show someone you care is by giving your time to them. Volunteering at The River gives us a chance to love our neighbors and support our community."

During their last visit, employees from Hovde Properties and Hovde Foundation spent the day preparing a delicious meal and served it during a pantry session.

"It's always a joy to serve and share with everyone at The River Food Pantry," Victor Villacrez, Senior Project Manager of Hovde Properties shared. "Planning the menu is similar to planning a holiday dinner for the extended family but that family is 150 people in size. We always choose interesting dishes, give healthy choices, and use only the best ingredients. Be it lasagna, Italian hot beef or spaghetti and homemade meatballs, the common ingredient is always love!"

"We are proud to partner with an organization that provides such integral support to our community," Nicole Bice, Executive Director at Hovde Foundation said. "We know our time and dollars are well spent at The River. Their compassion and commitment to helping those in need is inspiring!"

Hands of Hope

Your financial contribution supports a local, grassroots organization and your gift feeds people right here in Dane County. Join the Hands of Hope team and give monthly. Just \$20 a month could provide a week's worth of groceries for a family, that's less than \$1 a day!



Legacy Gift

Your financial contribution supports a local, grassroots organization and your gift feeds people right here in Dane County. We welcome the opportunity to discuss with you and your attorney or financial advisor the many options available to meet your charitable objectives and provide for your loved ones. For more information on planned giving contact Rhonda at rhonda@riverfoodpantry.org.

Ways To Get Involved

The three resources we need to be successful in our mission are **food, funds, and friends**. We invite you to step inside and take a seat at the table. See who we serve. See how we serve. See why we serve.

At The Pantry: The River needs volunteers to help during the five public shopping sessions every week as well as stocking shelves and cleaning.

In The Kitchen: Help prepare and serve community meals.

With MUNCH: The River needs volunteers to help with lunch production and distribution every weekend and everyday during the summer months.

Driver: We are looking for volunteers to help our truck driver on Mondays and Thursdays from 9am - 1:30pm to pick up donations.

Host a Food Drive: Raise funds, food and awareness in the community by hosting a food drive.

Visit riverfoodpantry.org or send an email to info@riverfoodpantry.org to learn more.

It's a feeling of satisfaction. A sense of fulfillment. It's about providing nutrition while nourishing a connected community.

"I walked away last night so impressed with the organization that The River has in regard to volunteers. The staff and adult volunteers were great with the kids and there was plenty of work for everyone to do, which is much appreciated. More than anything, I was struck by the compassion and kindness that everyone was treated with at The River, from customers to volunteers. All of the kids had great things to say and are asking me that we come back."

-David Presser
Youth Leadership & Community Program Coordinator
Vera Court Neighborhood Center



The River Staff

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Charles McLimans

Director of Advancement
Rhonda Adams

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Brad Boyle

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Hannah Becker

Community Meals Coordinator
Noelle Smith

MUNCH Program Coordinator
Joey Dunscombe

Administrative Assistant
Michele Withers

Warehouse Coordinator
Jon Clark

Driver
Bill Littel

Pantry Assistant
Jon Lund

Security
Jemal Massie

FOOD FOR GOOD

Those who serve and support The River Food Pantry discover how fulfilling food can be. More than just providing meals, it's about experiencing powerful moments, connecting with the community and contributing to a greater good. As a completely self-funded organization, we rely on both donors and volunteers to help us sustain a strong presence in the community.

We invite you to take a seat at the table and help contribute to The River Food Pantry experience by volunteering on site, hosting a fundraising event or providing a cash donation.

To learn more, visit riverfoodpantry.org or call (608) 442-8815.



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Feed the Need
presented by:  NGL
for a better people.

WHEN: Sunday, April 22, 2018
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: NOAH'S EVENT VENUE
5020 American Family Dr., Madison

Don't miss this culinary tasting event to benefit The River Food Pantry! Sample a huge variety of local flavors from Madison Originals restaurants, enjoy local breweries, wineries and distilleries, all while supporting a great cause.

Raise a glass. Raise spirits. Raise awareness.



➔ **Tickets \$40** (+ service fees)
www.riverfoodpantry.org
Get yours in advance!

Tickets will not be available at the door.

Special guest Kyle Cherek,
host of Wisconsin Foodie



With Generous Support from Our Partners:



Thank you to our participants, partners and sponsors!

To learn more about The River Food Pantry, visit www.RiverFoodPantry.org.