

Fall/Winter 2019



2201 Darwin Rd. • Madison, WI • 53704
(608) 442-8815 • info@riverfoodpantry.org

Market Hours

TUE: 10:30am–1:30pm & 4:30–7pm
WED: 11am–2pm [veterans & seniors (60+)]
THU: 10:30am–1:30pm & 4:30–7pm
FRI: 4:30–7:30pm

Donation Drop-Off Hours

MON–FRI: 9am–5:30pm

The River Food Pantry is a non-profit
501(c)(3) organization and your
contribution is tax deductible.
EIN: 20-4179749

riverfoodpantry.org



Fully Nourished

Community Newsletter

FOOD FOR SUCCESS STARTS SCHOOL

By Charles McLimans, President and CEO



This school year, The River is collaborating with two Madison hunger-relief organizations—Food for Thought

Initiative (Food4TI) and Selfless Ambition—to launch **Food for Success: a coalition to end hunger among Madison Metropolitan School District students, their families, and the community as a whole.**

Both Food4TI and Selfless Ambition provide healthy food options to students and their families through in-school food pantries. Food4TI operates pantries in Sandburg Elementary, Mendota Elementary, Cherokee Heights Middle, East High School and—as of September—Hawthorne Elementary. Selfless Ambition operates pantries in Leopold Elementary, Glendale Elementary and Lake View Elementary.

Food4TI also runs two weekend food programs: one at Thoreau Elementary and another called Thea's

Table, which serves children and their families who are homeless or in crisis.

As the fiscal sponsor for Food4TI, The River works with local food banks, grocery stores and other food providers to offer a more stable and cost-effective food supply for the coalition.

By maximizing our collective resources, we ensure that our local students and their families have a stable supply of healthy and nutritious food to help them succeed in school—and in life. Through Food for Success, we also empower our community to focus on child hunger through a wider lens. Together, we are serving more food insecure children, along with their families.



Learn more: riverfoodpantry.org/food4success



IN THEIR WORDS

"I have two younger brothers and two younger sisters. My mom started to go to The River and I came with her. When we didn't have any transportation anymore, I told her I would go. I take the bus or have to walk like 25 minutes each way. It feels good to be able to come to The River if we don't have food or money for it. When I carry all our food home in my backpacks, my brothers and sisters say, 'thank you,' to me."

—A 15-year-old client of The River



BACK-TO-SCHOOL GIVEAWAY

197 local students and their families are better prepared for school this year, thanks to **Exact Sciences, Healthgrades, Dean Health Plan, Hertz, Rob's Automotive, Agrace Thrift Store Madison East, Paul Mitchell The School Madison, and Hairapy For You.**

Thank you all for donating free school supplies and/or free haircut vouchers. Special thanks to **Exact Sciences** for volunteering to sort and distribute all of these essentials to families at our Back-to-School Giveaway in August. Together, we're building a stronger community by helping kids succeed!

GET YOUR REMITTS!

Get ready to stock up on ReMitts for the cold and the holidays! Each pair of these beautiful, warm, upcycled wool mittens is one of a kind. Plus, **ALL** the proceeds benefit The River when you purchase your ReMitts from the following locations:

- Barriques (2166 Atwood Ave)
- Dane County Credit Union (2160 Rimrock Rd, 709 Struck St & 3394 E Washington Ave)
- DuWayne's Salon (2114 N Sherman Ave)
- Klein's Floral & Greenhouses (3758 E Washington Ave)
- New Health Chiropractic (2690 Research Park Dr, Ste A)
- The UPS Store (4230 E Towne Blvd & 1213 N Sherman Ave)
- The River Food Pantry (2201 Darwin Rd)

Pick up yours (\$35/pair) in November and December!



Special thanks to Food for Thought Initiative for partnering with us this year to raise more funds to feed more kids!



Learn more: riverfoodpantry.org/givingtuesday

Join us on Dec. 3 for #GivingTuesday, a global day of giving. Last year, you raised \$30,000 for The River, plus a \$30,000 match, for a grand total of \$60,000 to end hunger in our community!

This year, we're collaborating with Food for Thought Initiative (Food4TI) to raise more funds to feed more kids! Your gifts will once again have **DOUBLE** the impact and will be matched up to \$35,000, thanks to generous donors.

Our goal is to raise \$35,000. Here's how you can help:

- Become an ambassador of The River and Food4TI by following us on social media. Like, comment and share our posts all day to help us reach new followers and supporters, and celebrate generosity.
- Make a gift on Giving Tuesday and encourage others to make giving a part of their holiday season.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNS' TAKEAWAYS

Five rising high school seniors served as interns at The River this summer through the UW PEOPLE Program, a college and career readiness kickstart program designed for low-income and potential first-generation college students. For five weeks, these students learned how The River operates and helped with all sorts of projects, like painting, database updates, and assisting clients. Before saying goodbye, the interns shared with us some of their top takeaways or experiences:



[Left to Right] Pauline, Cailin, Cecilia, Sarah and Arlinda

"From my time here, I can tell many clients see The River as a safe haven with food, clothes and friendly faces."

"My internship has greatly opened up my eyes. Food pantries are a necessity. There are so many people who truly need it to make it."

"I am grateful for this experience. I got choked up every time I saw someone get excited because they found the right food and especially when I saw kids smile."

"I felt like I made a change with every smile, "thank you," and "have a nice day," when I interacted with clients."

"I now know that there has to be a deep passion to run a nonprofit, especially a food pantry. Volunteers are truly necessary to run this nonprofit, so if able, come volunteer."

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER WITH US?

Volunteering with The River is easy and fun. Help out on your own or bring your friends, family or co-workers! You can decide how often to pitch in and where to get involved:

AT THE MARKET:

Help with public shopping sessions, stock shelves, sort donations, clean and more.

ADMIN ASSISTANCE

Use your computer skills to assist with client registration, check out and miscellaneous administrative tasks.

IN THE KITCHEN:

Help prepare and serve community meals for up to 250 people.

WITH MUNCH:

Assist with lunch production and/or distribution on non-school days, including **MMSD winter break Dec. 23–Jan. 3!**

IN THE COMMUNITY:

Raise funds, food and awareness in the community by hosting a food drive or starting your own fundraiser.

AT HOLIDAY MEALS:

Volunteer during our holiday meals on 11/22 or 12/20, or help prep food the week prior to each holiday meal.

From individuals to organizations, we truly appreciate all the hours volunteers spend helping The River serve our community.

Learn more at riverfoodpantry.org/volunteer or email volunteer@riverfoodpantry.org.

LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

If supporting The River Food Pantry has been an important part of your life, please consider including a gift to The River in your estate plan. Naming The River in your will, trust, or by beneficiary designation will help ensure that The River is here for generations to come.

For more information on how to leave your legacy to The River, contact Rhonda Adams at (608) 442-8815 or rhonda@riverfoodpantry.org.

Thank you in advance for your compassion and generosity.



CALENDAR

OCTOBER

1 H.O.P.E. Holiday Food Drive begins

NOVEMBER

22 Thanksgiving Dinner at The River
28–29 Closed

DECEMBER

3 Giving Tuesday
20 Holiday Meal at The River
24–25 Closed
31 H.O.P.E. Holiday Food Drive ends

JANUARY

1–2 Closed
20 Closed



2201 Darwin Rd.
Madison, WI 53704



PROVIDING HOUSEHOLD STABILITY FOR DANE COUNTY

As of August 31, this year The River has distributed **1.2 million pounds of food** to **4,007 households**, saving the average family **\$101 per visit** to spend on other critical expenses!



Learn more: riverfoodpantry.org/our-impact

**Help
Other
People
Eat**



Holiday Food Drive
October–December

MOST-NEEDED FOOD

- Mashed Potatoes
- Turkey Gravy
- Boxed Meals
- Tuna & Sardines
- Cereals
- Oatmeal
- 100% Juice
- Masa Flour
- Cornmeal
- Rice
- Spaghetti
- Soups
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly

MOST-NEEDED HYGIENE PRODUCTS

- Deodorant
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Dishwashing Soap
- Kleenex
- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo