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Food Pantry Needs More Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The cold winter weather always brings an increase in demand at the Food pantry of Waukesha County (FPWC) but with lingering economic troubles, new families are coming in for services like never before. **“We are seeing a record number of families coming to us for help within the last few months.”** said FPWC Executive Director Karen Tredwell. This demand will be difficult to meet, but one local group is stepping up to the challenge.

Residents from three local neighborhoods are once again coming together to collect food and monetary contributions to benefit the FPWC. It all started eight years ago when a group of eight families from were sharing a Thanksgiving meal. The group decided to share their good fortune with those less fortunate. **“We all wanted to give back to the community and we all thought it could also be a valuable lesson for the children to learn.”** said Dave Rebro, coordinator of the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food & Fund drive.**

Over the last eight years, Neighbors Helping Neighbors has expanded their efforts and now collect food and funds from three subdivisions. Three businesses have also joined in the partnership to make the drive more successful – Modern Ink Signs & Graphics, RW Signs & Graphics and Heritage, a Communications Resource. **Last year the group collected 9 full pallets of non-perishable food and more than \$3,700.** The hope is that this year will be even better to help meet the record high demand that FPWC experiencing.

Over the course of its 31 year history, FPWC has never seen as high a demand for services as it did in its fiscal year ending September 2009. A 9.2% increase in demand over the previous year saw the monthly average of 5,648 people served rise to 6,169. **74,028 men, women and children** received much needed supplemental groceries and other personal products from FPWC in the last fiscal year. Unfortunately the coming year looks just as bleak, in November alone, an **all-time high of 7242 individuals came through the Pantry’s doors looking for help.**

The **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food & Fund drive** is scheduled for **Saturday, December 12th, from 12:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.** in the subdivisions of Tall Grass, Rolling Ridge and Meadowbrook. Coordinators Dave Rebro and Shannon Majewski encourage residents of the subdivisions to leave groceries on their porches or at the end of their driveways on Saturday morning.

For additional information about this year’s food drive, please visit their web site – www.tallin.com/neighbors



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The Food Pantry of Waukesha County, a non-profit organization serving the community for thirty years, advocates to increase awareness of hunger in the community and promotes collaborative action to provide food to those in need. The Food Pantry currently provides food to an average of 6200 people per month.