



PRESS RELEASE

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Neighborhood Food Drive Marks Its Sixth Year

In December of last year, residents from three local neighborhoods collaborated to collect 5 pallets of non-perishable food items and over \$2500.00 in contributions to benefit the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. The sixth annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food & Fund drive is scheduled for Saturday, December 8, from 11:30 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. Later that day, children from the neighborhood collect the food with help from adult family members. Monetary contributions are made via checks made out to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

It all started five years ago when a group of eight families from the neighborhood were sharing a Thanksgiving meal. Each person at the table was asked to offer up a blessing for which he or she was grateful. When they realized how many things they could be grateful for, the group decided to share their good fortune with those less fortunate. Rebro adds, "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."

That first year money was collected and a contribution was delivered directly to the pantry by a few neighborhood families. When they arrived, they discovered the pantry was open and distributing groceries. They observed the long waiting line of clients and a parking lot filled to capacity. The sight of all those people in need really made an impression on the group, particularly the children. Matthew Wulf, age 11, one of the children present remarked, "After seeing the long line of people waiting to get food, I realized how lucky we are to have what we have...and it felt good to give to others." Co-Coordinator Rebro added, "We were all so surprised that day how the clients looked and dressed just like us. It really hit home that a situation could easily arise that could put anyone of us in that receiving line. That really opened our eyes and touched our hearts."

Over the last five years, the neighbors have expanded their efforts and now collect food and funds from the 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.

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 established in 1978, 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 5300 people per month.