



McFarland Community Food Pantry 2022 Annual Report

2022 McFARLAND COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY HIGHLIGHTS

The McFarland Community Food Pantry's mission is to provide food and household essentials to individuals and families within the McFarland community who are struggling with hunger and in need of assistance.

2022 brought a few changes to the pantry. After 12 years, co-managers Sue Steinmetz and Toni Hutter retired from their positions. A search by the Board of Directors brought us a new manager. Because of both Sue and Toni's generosity in sharing their time, knowledge, and love of our pantry, this transition to a new manager has been very smooth.

Also, in November, we reopened our doors, allowing our guests to come back inside and select their groceries themselves. During the pandemic our volunteers really rose to the occasion manning the labor-intensive drive-up service (which allowed guests as much customization as possible while remaining outside). We are so happy to have our guests back inside where we can renew our relationships on a much more personal level. As always, our guests are encouraged to come to the pantry as often as they want to ensure that they have the food and household items that they need.

Our home delivery service continues to grow at the pantry. We currently deliver to 15-18 households per month.

During 2022, the Pantry served 131 different households who made 1319 visits to the Pantry. These households included 124 adults, 79 seniors (60 and over), and 69 children.

We also continued to:

- Ensure each Pantry guest had access to a wide variety of nutritious food items including milk, eggs, meat, and fresh fruit and vegetables.
- Stocked household essentials and personal items, including toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo, dish soap, and laundry detergent.
- Distributed school supplies and school gift cards to students.
- Provided 85 Thanksgiving and 97 Winter Holiday meal baskets (including essentials to make a complete holiday meal) to Pantry households. Thanks to Second Harvest, and Mad-City Gobblers the meat and most meal ingredients were without cost.
- Coordinated the Holiday Giving Tree, providing 252 gifts to individuals (households and children). Due to the incredible generosity of both organizations and individuals in our community, we were able to provide at least 2 gifts to each household and children. As in past years, the McFarland High School Students, coordinated by the Ambassadors, donated additional gifts for the children.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Over 89,385 pounds of food and household essentials were distributed thanks to the community support. Our amazing community increased the amount that they donated by more than 6000 pounds, with a total amount donated from our community of over 43,000 pounds of food and household essentials (48% of what was distributed)!

2022 continued to bring out the best of the community, with many community organizations, churches, businesses, and individuals supporting the Pantry with special events, food drives and monetary donations. Over 210 different individuals and businesses made monetary donations in 2022. There were also several monetary fund raisers, such as the McFarland Fire and Rescue Association's food tent at the McFarland Community Festival.

There were a great many food drives and fundraising activities by individuals, organizations and churches, some of which included:

- Drive-thru food drives by the Lions, Lioness and the American Legion.
- Scouting for Food by the McFarland Scouts, cookie donations by individual Girl Scout Troops, and Thrivent Action Team food drives.
- McFarland School Support including:
 - Conrad Elvehjem Primary School's food drive and Soctober with socks being distributed with holiday gifts
 - Waubesa Food Drive, sponsored by the 3rd graders and the 3rd graders visits to the Pantry decorating grocery bags
 - Indian Mound Middle School food drives
 - High School food drives including DECA's annual Halloween Food Drive, and the Music Boosters club fresh fruit drive
 - McFarland School District Superintendent Aaron Tarnutzer participation in the McFarland Community Festival's "Kiss the Pig" competition.
- One Community Bank-McFarland's community and employee food drives.
- AMTELCO and Temperature Control Systems' food drives; Hope Lutheran Church's Mountain of Food; and Crossroads Church food drive along with hat and mitten donations.
- Dan Chin Home's Stella's Spicy Cheese Bread and Thanksgiving pie donations, Edward Jones Thanksgiving pie donations and Mad-City Gobblers' turkey and ham donations.
- Kwik Trip food donations.
- Food Drives by Ferraro Real Estate Group, Total Body Training, and McFarland Family Chiropractic.
- Zelm Chiropractic Center's Patient Appreciation Day fundraiser and food drive.
- Food and household good donations from Becker's Bounty, Blain's Farm & Fleet, Kunes Buick of Stoughton, Toby's Supper Club, Stella's Bakery, and Focus 4 Energy.
- Food drives and fundraising by individuals, churches, and neighborhood groups.
- Stuff the Bus coordinated by the McFarland Lions, along with the Lioness, Lions, United Church of Christ, American Legion Auxiliary #534, McFarland Lutheran Church, One Community Bank-McFarland, and Thrivent Insurance. This also included a fundraiser by Spartan Pizza.
- Pool plunge, book sales and shoveling snow.

The Optimist Club continued "Cuddle Up with Books", and the UW's Department of Engineering Physics continued to donate science projects for the pantry's youth.

Thanks to the McFarland community, we were able to continue to provide Pantry guests with a wide variety of fresh produce. These produce donations were from gardens planted especially for the Pantry, including the McFarland Lutheran Church "Care of Creation" garden, the Community Garden, and by Norb and Kathy Krusiak. Additional ongoing produce donations were also received from Bill Alber, Nick Linden and Dale Marsden.

PANTRY EXPENSES

The Pantry received, at no cost, allotments of food through the federal emergency food assistance program (TEFAP) and Second Harvest. With this and the increased donations from the community, only 20% of the food and households essentials distributed were purchased by the Pantry in 2022.

VOLUNTEERS

The McFarland Community Food Pantry continues to be a 100% volunteer organization from the Pantry Board to the Pantry Manager and the wide range of individual and group volunteers. Volunteers ensure that the Pantry is cleaned and stocked, along with packing groceries for Pantry guests. Unfortunately, the pandemic continued the Pantry's requirements to limit the number of volunteers inside for most of the year. Due to this, we were unable to allow most groups stock, put together the holiday meal baskets, or assist with other Pantry needs. Now that we have opened our doors and increased the number of people in the pantry at any one time we are looking forward to once again having the support of these groups!

**THE McFARLAND COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
CONTINUES TO BE AMAZED
BY THE SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY
AND PANTRY VOLUNTEERS.**

WE ARE SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF YOU!!

THANK YOU



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