

2025 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.

2025 saw our numbers level off, dipping just slightly. Registered households at McFarland Community food pantry for 2025 dropped 5%, while total visits dropped 6%. As always, we continue to allow and encourage our shoppers to come as frequently as they need, and to take what they need with very few restrictions.

Our home delivery service continues to thrive at the pantry. We currently deliver to 20 households twice a month. We offer delivery twice a month to ensure that these households have better access to perishable items such as fruits, vegetables, milk and bread.

During 2025, the Pantry served 191 different households who made 3177 visits to the Pantry. These households included 195 adults, 104 seniors (60 and over), and 127 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.
- Stock household essentials and personal items, including toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bath soap, shampoo, dish soap, and laundry detergent.
- Distribute school supplies and school gift cards to students.
- Provide 123 Thanksgiving and 126 Winter Holiday meal baskets (including essentials to make a complete holiday meal) to Pantry households. Thanks to Mad-City Gobblers and the Spartan Samaritan Group the meats for these meals were without cost.
- Coordinate the Holiday Giving Tree, providing 270 gifts to individuals (households and children). Due to the incredible generosity of both organizations and individuals in our community, we were once again able to provide a gift to each household, and 2 gifts to each child. As in past years, the McFarland High School Students donated additional gifts for the children.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

An incredible 184,469 pounds of food and household essentials were distributed to households in need last year. Our amazing community (including Pick n Save, Kwik Trip and Dollar General) donated 115,563.7 pounds of food and household essentials (an increase of 24,000 pounds over 2024, and nearly 63% of what was distributed)!

2025 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 262 different individuals and businesses made monetary donations in 2025. There were also several monetary fund raisers, such as the annual Kuehl Polar Plunge, and McFarland House Café summer long "Sundaes on Thursdays".

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

- 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 District 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 grade field trips to the Pantry for a tour and to decorate grocery bags
 - Indian Mound Middle School food drives
 - High School food drives including DECA's annual Halloween Food Drive, Student Council cereal drive and the Music Boosters club fresh fruit drive
- 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.
- Edward Jones Thanksgiving pie donations and both the Spartan Samaritan Group and Mad-City Gobblers' turkey and ham donations.
- Kwik Trip, Pick N Save, and Dollar General food donations.
- Food Drives by Spartan Bowl, Green Lantern, and Total Body Training.
- Zelm Chiropractic Center's Patient Appreciation Day fundraiser and food drive.
- Food and household good donations from Becker's Bounty, and Toby's Supper Club.
- Food drives and fundraising by individuals, churches, and neighborhood groups such as McFarland Lutheran Church, Waubesa Condominiums, and local hockey, soccer and basketball teams.
- 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.
- The Optimist Club "Cuddle Up with Books" donations.
- Lemonade stands, book sales and shoveling snow.

Thanks to the McFarland community, during the summer and fall we were able to provide Pantry guests with a wide variety of fresh produce. Fresh broccoli, tomatoes, cabbage, cucumbers, brussels sprouts, strawberries, apples and pears were among the many fruits and vegetables donated. These produce donations came from both "backyard gardens" and 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 30% of the food and households essentials distributed were purchased by the Pantry in 2025.

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.

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