

# Nonperishables go a long way, but pantries need money



Cheryl Anderson, Post-Crescent Media 2:41 p.m. CDT November 1, 2014

*Area food pantries rely on food drives and cash donations to make ends meet.*



(Photo: Wm. Glasheen/Post-Crescent Media)

While Fox Valley food pantries receive canned and boxed provisions from corporations, organizations and businesses, financial donations are their true bread and butter.

That's never more important than when summer turns to fall, and donations of fresh produce dry up.

"The fresh produce drops to almost zero," said Patrick Leigl, social services director with the Salvation Army-Fox Cities, Appleton. "So we do lose that from the different partners and farmers who bring in their corn and potatoes and tomatoes. That's wonderful when we get that. We lost that starting a week ago. That takes a toll on us."

Donated money and gift cards can be used to buy food from organizations like Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin-Fox Valley's food bank and to purchase items with a short shelf life from retailers.

Post-Crescent Media and its nine sister newspapers know the value of a dollar when it comes to helping pantries supplement their needs. They again are teaming up to raise money for food pantries. The Post-Crescent's goal is to collect \$275,000 by the end of November for 26 food pantries serving thousands of people in the Fox Valley.

"Financial donations are extremely helpful because they don't have to be stored," said Monica Clare, executive director of St. Joseph Food Program, Menasha. "They also offer us the opportunity to select things specifically. ... Since we're trying to focus on more nutritious food, it's nice when we have the funds to be able to choose what those items are."

St. Joseph Food Program also uses money for its Backpack Assistance Program.

"We are assisting six school districts, about 300 students, with food to take home on the weekends so that when they come back to school on Monday they're not hungry and they can focus on their schoolwork," Clare said.

Like many pantries in the region, much of the food given to clients at Freedom Center Food Pantry in Appleton is purchased through Feeding America, pantry director Jo Vandermause said.

"(Cash) allows us to buy some foods that we're just not able to get through donations, like milk," she said.

Pantries also are dependent on the the price of gas, Leigl said.

"When we buy stuff, we buy quality as well as quantity, and depending on the gas, there'll be a price surcharge. All those little things have an impact, overall, on our food budget."

At first blush, Leigl said, Salvation Army-Fox Cities saw more people than last year but gave out less food because it costs more to buy. "So our budget gets a little pinched, and we can't purchase as much as we used to," he said.

While the economy is showing signs of improvement, Leigl said, those numbers have no impact on lower-income people who continue to live on the fringes. They rely on food pantries to help make up the difference.

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## How to donate

**Online:** Visit the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region's website at [www.cffoxvalley.org/stocktheshelves](http://www.cffoxvalley.org/stocktheshelves) (<http://www.cffoxvalley.org/stocktheshelves>).

**Mail:** Send donations to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, 4455 W. Lawrence St., Appleton, WI 54914.

**Food:** Drop off nonperishable food items at Fox Cities credit union branches.

**Shop:** Food For Neighbors bags are available for purchase at Festival Foods.

**Gas:** Express Convenience Centers will donate 5 cents per gallon of gas purchased during the campaign, up to \$35,000.

**Pantries in The Post-Crescent market that will benefit**

- Apostolic Truth Church (the Store House), Appleton
- Bread of Life Assistance Center, the Salvation Army of Calumet County, Chilton
- City of New London
- Clintonville Area Food Pantry
- Cornerstone Church Fox Valley, Menasha
- Cries of the Heart Outreach Ministries, Neenah
- Double Portion, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Menasha
- Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin-Fox Valley (food bank)
- Freedom Center Food Pantry, Appleton
- Freedom Fellowship Pantry, Freedom
- Hortonville Community Food Pantry
- Loaves & Fishes, Holy Cross, Kaukauna
- Manawa Area Community Food Pantry
- Marion Area Ministerial Association House of Hope
- Menasha Food Pantry, Trinity Lutheran Church & School
- Ruth's Pantry, Grace Lutheran Church, Larsen
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Brillion
- Salvation Army Service Extension-Outagamie County
- St. John's Nepomucene Food Pantry, Little Chute
- St. John's Episcopal Church, New London
- St. Joseph Food Program, Menasha
- St. Mary/St. John St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, Menasha
- St. Vincent de Paul, New Holstein
- The Salvation Army-Fox Cities
- Waupaca Area Food Pantry
- Wey-Mont Food Pantry, Weyauwega

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Stock the Shelves kick off event

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Wm. Glasheen



Stock the Shelves kick off event in Appleton (/picture-gallery/news/local/2014/10/09/stock-the-shelves-kick-off-event-in-appleton/16980759/)

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