

St. Joseph Food program grows outreach efforts

Jim Collar, Post-Crescent Media 4:31 p.m. CDT May 21, 2014



St. Joseph Food Program has been a critical resource for about 1,000 families each week who receive help in stocking their pantries.

There are many more people, however, who benefit from its food distribution efforts and might not realize it.

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The St. Joseph Food Program reports that its outreach efforts have grown to a quarter of its distribution. Those efforts include supplying food to meal-serving agencies such as COTS and the Harbor House and Christine Ann domestic abuse programs.

Karen Ziemke, development director for St. Joe's, said the arrangements make sense.

"They're able to focus on their mission," Ziemke said. "We can help them in not having to worry about that piece of the puzzle."

Ziemke said the food program's clientele who pick up groceries at its Menasha location remained fairly steady in 2013, having grown about 1 percent from 2012.

Its outreach efforts touch six school districts that receive food and in turn provide it to students in need. They also help stock smaller pantries in Dale, Kaukauna and Seymour.

It might otherwise be difficult for those operations to sustain variety on their shelves.

"It brings the nutritional level of their pantries to the same they'd find here," Ziemke said.

For more information on St. Joseph, visit its website, stjoesfoodprogram.org.

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