



McFarland Food Pantry 2021 Annual Report

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2021 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.

COVID has continued to have a significant impact on the McFarland Community Food Pantry. Throughout 2021, the Pantry was unable to allow Pantry guests into the building to independently shop. In order to give guests the independence to select needed items, a grocery list (updated monthly) was provided allowing guests to make their own selections and the quantity desired. We also provided a weekly list of new items (recently received and/or not always available to put on the monthly list). Pantry guests remained in their vehicles while completing the lists. Volunteers inside the Pantry filled the requests and packed the groceries which were then placed in the guests' vehicles.

In addition, we added an outside "pop-up" pantry (weather permitting) where guests could look at items and make their own selections. We were excited to add this "pop-up" pantry for distribution of unique items and fresh produce. It provided guests the opportunity to select fresh produce, provided by the McFarland community garden and individual gardeners, and gave Pantry guests the independence to make their own choices.

We feel these options allow Pantry guests independence in getting needed groceries and household essentials.

Home deliveries have always been a part of the McFarland Community Food Pantry services, with our continuing to see an increase in the number of households needing these deliveries (now doing 12-15 per month).

The Pantry continues to actively look for the best means to serve Pantry guests and keep both the guests and volunteers safe during this ongoing pandemic.

During 2021, the Pantry served 126 different households who made 1148 visits to the Pantry. These households included 134 adults, 67 seniors (over 60), and 88 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 produce.
- 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 95 Winter Holiday meal baskets (including essentials to make a complete holiday meal) to Pantry households. (Thanks to the Dane County Cares Program and Second Harvest, the meat and most meal ingredients were without cost.)
- Coordinated the Holiday Giving Tree, providing 180 gifts to individuals (households and children). The continuing pandemic increased the obstacles for this activity, however, with the cooperation and generosity of both organizations and individuals, we were able to provide at least 2 gifts to each households and children. As in past years, the McFarland High School Students, coordinated by the Ambassadors, donated additional gifts for the children.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Over 83,605 pounds of food and household essentials were distributed thanks to the community support. Amazingly with drop-off sites closed, the community stepped up and found ways to donate over 37,000 pounds of food and household essentials (45% of what was distributed)!

2021 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. The Pantry created both PayPal and Venmo accounts to allow for no-contact donations. Over 275 different individuals and businesses made monetary donations in 2021.

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 Troops, and Cub Scout Pack 53 and Thrivent's Thanksgiving food drive.
- 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 and Valentine Card sales
 - High School food drives by the National Honor Society and Tech Ed Department, DECA's fundraiser "Spot the Spartan" and their annual Halloween Food Drive, and the Football Team's card sales
 - High School Music Boosters club donating fresh produce and the McFarland PTO
- One Community Bank-McFarland's Holiday Tree 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.
- McFarland's Public Works Open House food drive and the Police Department's Stuff the Squad.

- Dan Chin Home's Thanksgiving pie donations and Mad-City Gobblers' turkey donations.
- Kwik Trip and Pick 'n Save food donations.
- Ferraro Real Estate Group, Total Body Training, and Fit City's periodic food drives.
- Zelm Chiropractic Center's Patient Appreciation Day fundraiser and food drive.
- 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 fundraisers by Spartan Pizza and Rock n Rollz.
- Pool plunge, golf competition and lemonade stands.

The pandemic brought out a lot of creative ideas for helping Pantry guests through this difficult time, including the Optimist Club's pillowcases with books, birthday bags, science projects (by the UW's Department of Engineering Physics), and lots of Girl Scout cookie donations.

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 the 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 received from Nick Linden and Dale Marsden.

PANTRY EXPENSES

The Pantry received, as no cost, increased allotments of food through the federal emergency food program and Second Harvest (who received food from the Dane County CARES Program). With this and the increased donations from the community, just over 24% of the food and household essentials were purchased by the Pantry

VOLUNTEERS

The McFarland Community Food Pantry continues to be a 100% volunteer organization from the Pantry Board to the Pantry Managers 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. This resulted in our inability to continue allowing organization/student/scout groups or the Waubesa third-graders to help stock, put together the holiday meal baskets, or assist with other Pantry needs. 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**