



Chris Lantzy, Polk County River Place volunteer, helps KristyLyn Ashby stock her reusable grocery bags. Photo by Jenny Du Puis/DMARC.

WHAT I KNOW ABOUT HUNGER...AND YOU SHOULD TOO

GUEST EDITORIAL BY JOHN MAURO, POLK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Over the past year, I have learned a great deal about Hunger.

For instance, here in the heart of America, in Polk County, Iowa, 55,000 of our neighbors do not have enough to eat.

Hunger is blind to skin color, ethnic background, age and gender. It doesn't care which zip code you live in. If you rent an apartment or own your home. Or, if you are in poor health.

I know that too many of our babies, toddlers, school children and young adults do not have access to the food they need to thrive. To grow. To learn. To volunteer. To contribute to our workforce.

Hunger hides in plain sight. In the silent tears of anguished parents. In the painful stomach cramps of a diabetic grandmother. In young, under-nourished bodies too weak to kick a soccer ball.

However, I have also learned that Hunger is facing a tireless challenger, DMARC. *...continued on page 3*

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EVERY SILVER LINING HAS A CLOUD!

BY REV. SARAI SCHNUCKER RICE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The silver lining for DMARC is that we have greatly improved our ability to find hungry people. Since we opened a new pantry at River Place (the county's facility on Euclid) in March 2015, we've fed 3,200 families there (roughly 5,445 individuals), 71% of whom are new to the food pantry system. Most notably, we're now seeing more older adults—23% of River Place clients are over the age of 62, compared to 7% over 62 in the food pantry network as a whole.

Another piece of the silver lining is that food is available to everyone every day if they need it – bread products, Meals from the Heartland, dried beans, donated fresh produce, and all the donated food that doesn't fit our healthy food model. Because this food is all donated, hungry people can literally get food every day without additional cost to DMARC.

The cloud around this silver lining is that the increase in individuals served results in roughly \$210,000 in additional food cost per year.

So all in all, a bit of cloud in all our silver lining, but you can help. If you're a regular donor, please consider donating a bit more to meet the needs of our new families. If you've never donated, both money and food are helpful donations. Consider having a party and inviting friends to bring food and money. Drop food in the Red Barrel at your local grocery store. Drop off extra produce from your garden at our warehouse. Anything you can do to help us feed others will help reduce the size of the cloud!

As a benefit to our families, sometime this summer we will be previewing a new website focused on them, www.SimpleHealthDSM.com. We hope to highlight individual families and the food they eat as well as featuring easy to prepare simple, healthy recipes using food available at our pantries.

Finally, two special interfaith opportunities are coming up!

- On October 13, the 5th annual Bear Lecture, featuring Dr. Yaakov Ariel from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will be speaking on the long-standing relationship between evangelical Christians and the Jewish community. (*see p. 7*)
- On February 21, we are holding a new event called Iowa Interfaith Exchange. This event continues the idea of Winter Thaw, but with a new format – a one-day, weekend event with a variety of workshops, including a track for youth and young adults. (*see p. 7*)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarai Schnucker Rice". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice

...continued from page 1

As you may know, the Des Moines Area Religious Council has been responding for nearly 40 years with emergency food to help families in crises. In the past year, DMARC has provided the equivalent of 2.5 million meals for 41,000 people. This is a little more than 20 days of food per person.

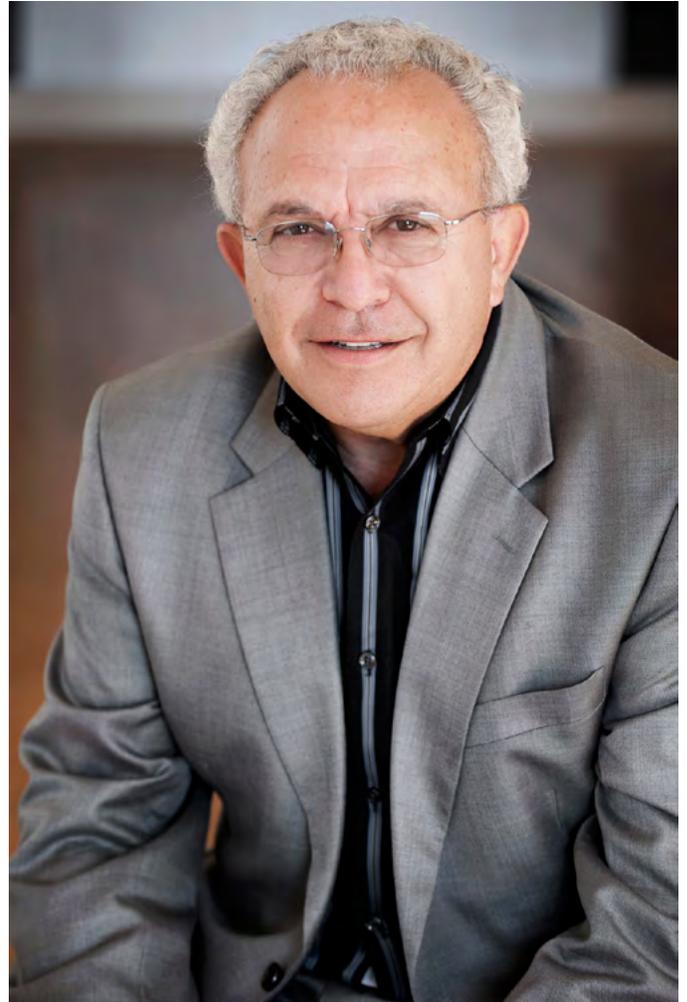
Yet, the hunger gap remains far too wide. I am convinced that Hunger's call in Polk County can no longer be answered by DMARC and other emergency food sources alone.

In the coming weeks and months I will be reaching out to businesses, community leaders, policy-makers and others to raise awareness about what it will take to close the local food gap, and what this means for Polk County, now and in the future.

I am certain that not only can we do better as a community – we simply must. And, I know, with your help, we will!



John Mauro
Polk County Board of Supervisors



Supervisor Mauro is leading the Partnership for a Hunger-free Polk County, a growing coalition of public, private and non-profit agencies (including DMARC) devoted to ending hunger in Polk County, Iowa.

If the number of Polk County residents who need help in meeting their nutrition needs were recognized as the population of “Hunger, Iowa,” it would be the 11th largest city in our state, just behind Dubuque’s 58,000+ residents, and ahead of Ankeny, Urbandale, Cedar Falls, Marion and Bettendorf.



Photo by Jenny Du Puis/DMARC.

SIMPLE HEALTH DSM AIMS TO EDUCATE AND CONNECT

BY JENNIFER DU PUIS, MULTIMEDIA INTERN

As many of us know, it is difficult to buy fresh, healthy foods when higher-calorie foods are cheaper. Out of necessity, nutrition can take a backseat to cost. Even when healthy food is available, low-income families may not know how to use it.

Simple Health DSM is a DMARC project that aims to create a healthy community within the clients of Des Moines area food pantries. The goals for this effort are to increase the ability of low-income families to make healthy choices and craft a feeling of community between food pantry clients.

Fortunately for DMARC food pantry clients, they receive a sense of dignity that is not felt in every city like it is in Des Moines. DMARC supplies healthy food pantry items that clients are able to pick from each month. Fresh produce, nutritional canned items, frozen protein, and more are distributed throughout the Food Pantry Network.

Many clients do not know where to start when they enter a choice pantry or after they receive a monthly supply of food.

“One of our concerns is clients having the attitude of ‘not for me’ about healthy food because they don’t have access,” said Executive Director Sarai Rice. “We want to help them have access, and we are going to do everything we can to make that possible for them. We want them to believe they can do this ‘healthy eating’ thing.”

Objectives such as increasing healthy choices related to food insecurity may seem like a long shot, but DMARC aims to accomplish the mission.

To do so, DMARC is creating a website as a community core, www.SimpleHealthDSM.com. The website will include simple recipes using items found at the DMARC food pantries, preparation, safety, and nutritional information, and community stories and resources available to clients. Some of the Simple Health recipes will be submitted directly by the clients themselves.

Video and photography will help clients understand the Simple Health message. Social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube will be utilized as well to service a younger demographic of users. For clients without access to the Internet, printed recipe cards will be available at all DMARC food pantries.

Simple Health DSM hopes to share the narratives of DMARC clients, dissolving the differences between “them and us” by using the storytelling power of photography and videography to disrupt existing perceptions.

“Knowing each other’s stories gives a broader understanding of the world. If all we do is see things from our own perspectives, then we never really grow as human beings,” Rice said.

In the future, Simple Health plans to make the community visible by adding screens to every pantry- showcasing the recipe videos, information, and other resources that are found on the website.

GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR DRIVE

BY LUKE ELZINGA, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Donation drives are a great way for congregations, corporate teams, fraternities and sororities, sports teams, youth groups, schools and other groups to donate to the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

One of the best ways to make your drive a success is to get creative with it! If participants have an incentive to donate, you'll see your drive bring in more food, especially if you can add a competitive element to it.

This April, The Principal Financial Group held a donation drive among its employees, and used multiple methods and special events to encourage employees to donate to the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

"The Principal Financial Group had several donation incentives throughout the food drive," said Joe Sheridan, who works in Community Relations. "We passed out jeans

day stickers to employees who donated, held a drawing for Civic Center tickets for donors and organized a nine-hole mini-golf course in our internal skyway system made from nonperishable food items."

In years past we've seen pies eaten, heads shaved, teachers duct-taped to walls and giant sculptures arranged by cans of food. We've seen chili cook-offs, benefit concerts, soup suppers and even a latke cooking competition.

In what new and creative ways can you hold your next drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network?

To learn more about hosting a drive for DMARC, visit dmarcunited.org/movethefood/host-a-drive/, or contact Red Barrel/Food Drive Coordinator John Robinson, jrobinson@dmarcunited.org or 515-277-6969 x18.

THE PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP'S APRIL 2015 DONATION DRIVE BROUGHT IN...

3,764
FOOD ITEMS

122
PERSONAL ITEMS

1,338
DIAPERS



Photo by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

DMARC'S MISSION:

Religious Communities Working Together
to Meet Basic Human Needs.

STAFF:

REV. SARAI SCHNUCKER RICE,

Executive Director

DANIEL BECK

JOE DOLACK

JENNIFER DU PUIS

LUKE ELZINGA

KRISTINE FRAKES, CFRE

PAM LARSON

DREW ROBERTSON

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JOHN WHALIN

DMARC SUMMER HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

PARTNER PANTRIES UPDATE

West Des Moines Human Services food pantry now serves all of Greater Des Moines. CROSS Ministries now operates a choice pantry.

HY-VEE COLOSSAL COOKIE SALE

Mark your calendar! Hy-Vee will once again be holding its Colossal Cookie Sale this year from September 13-26. For every cookie sold, Hy-Vee will donate 1 cent worth of food to the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

Last year, Hy-Vee stores in the Des Moines Area sold 574,522 cookies to benefit DMARC. Since the Colossal Cookie Sale began in 2003, Hy-Vee has sold over 9 million cookies and has donated over \$90,000 in food products to the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

We thank Hy-Vee for this partnership, and also thank all customer who bought cookies in the past!



Please help make the 2015 Colossal Cookie Sale the most successful one yet!

IOWA CUBS SUNDAY HOME GAMES



At every Iowa Cubs Sunday home game this summer, DMARC will be accepting three food items as a donation in exchange for one general admission ticket. Fans can also pay \$5 to upgrade to a Grand Stand seat.

Find a full list of the Iowa Cubs Sunday Home Games on our community calendar, located online at dmarcunited.org/events.

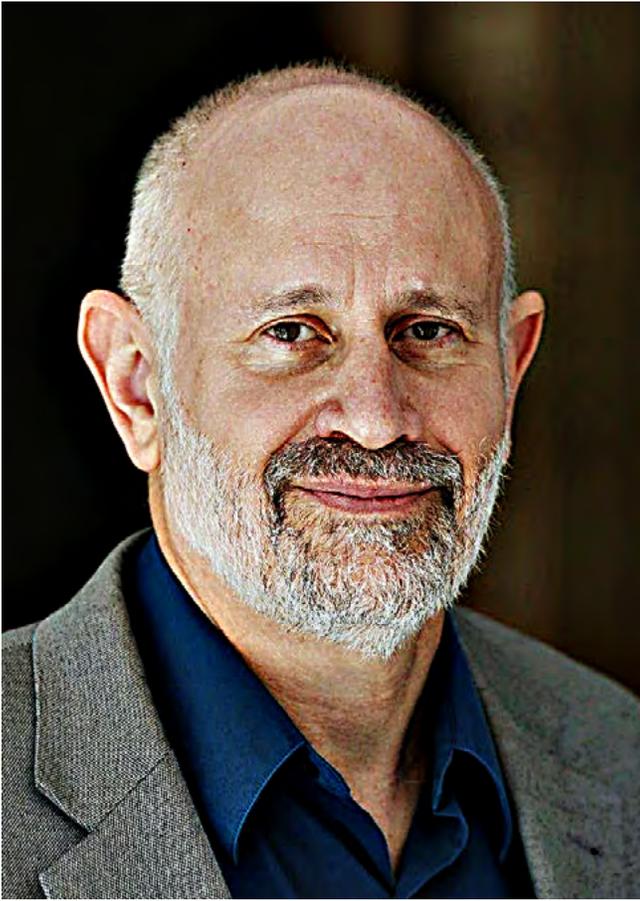
We are still in need of a few volunteers to assist gathering donations at Iowa Cubs Sunday home game. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Daniel Beck, dbeck@dmarcunited.org or 515-282-2026.

MEALS FROM THE MARKET

Each Saturday morning during the summer, the Meals from the Market program collects produce donations from vendors at the Des Moines Downtown Farmers' Market.

DMARC is currently seeking volunteers to collect produce donations during the Downtown Farmer's Market. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Daniel Beck, dbeck@dmarcunited.org or 515-282-2026.





INTERFAITH EVENTS

5TH ANNUAL

David Bear

MEMORIAL INTERFAITH LECTURE SERIES

THE DES MOINES AREA RELIGIOUS COUNCIL PRESENTS

YAAKOV ARIEL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2015

7:00 PM

TIFERETH ISRAEL SYNAGOGUE

924 POLK BLVD, DES MOINES, IA 50312

YAAKOV ARIEL

Professor of Religious Studies, *University of North Carolina Chapel Hill*

Author, *An Unusual Relationship: Evangelical Christians and Jews*

Dr. Yaakov Ariel will provide a comprehensive picture of the unusual relationship that has developed between evangelical Christians and Jews. He will explore the theological roots of the evangelical attitudes, point to the historical development of the interaction between the two communities of faith, and examine the actual manifestation of the enchantment. This includes extensive missionary work among the Jews and pro-Zionist activity. His presentation will also look at the contemporary Israeli-evangelical friendly relationship and the political support evangelicals have offered Israel, as well as the Jewish, Christian and Muslim reactions to this relationship.

This lecture is made possible by a legacy left by David Bear, a prominent Des Moines engineer and businessman for more than 50 years. A member and leader at Tifereth Israel Synagogue, he was a pioneer in breaking down barriers among people of all faiths. In addition to his many other professional and community affiliations, he served as president of the Des Moines Area Religious Council in 1992, and was president of the DMARC Foundation in 1989 and 1990. He continued to serve as a board member of the Foundation until his death in the spring of 2010. In his honor, the Bear family has established the David Bear Memorial Interfaith Lecture Series.

INTRODUCING THE IOWA INTERFAITH EXCHANGE

Winter Thaw, our annual adult interfaith education series, is being reimagined as a one-day event named the Iowa Interfaith Exchange. This event will have a keynote presentation as well as breakout sessions and panels similar in scope to classes previously featured during Winter Thaw.

The event will be held the afternoon of Sunday, February 21, 2016, at Plymouth Congregational Church, 4126 Ingersoll Avenue in Des Moines. More details such as keynote presenter and break-out session topics will be forthcoming.



UNITED TO MEET THE NEED

Des Moines Area Religious Council

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Des Moines, Iowa 50309

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dmarcunited.org

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Email: info@dmarcunited.org

 **Des Moines Area Religious Council**
 **@dmreligious**

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POLK COUNTY RIVER PLACE FOOD PANTRY OPEN HOUSE AND RIBBON CUTTING



Photo by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.



You're invited to an open house at Polk County River Place Food Pantry on Monday, August 10, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Remarks and the ribbon cutting will take place at 4:15 p.m. Polk County River Place Food Pantry is the newest addition to the DMARC Food Pantry Network, opening on March 9, 2015.

Please bring a canned or boxed food item to help support your local pantry!
Polk County River Place is located at 2309 Euclid Avenue in Des Moines.

THE VOICE



UNITED TO MEET THE NEED