



WHEELING OUT THE NEW DMARC MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



Graphic by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.

BY LUKE ELZINGA, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

An innovative new method for getting food into the hands of those who need it most is being wheeled out in Greater Des Moines. The DMARC Mobile Food Pantry began providing food at sites across Greater Des Moines last month.

The concept has been in formation for years now. What if we were able to bring an entire choice food pantry into different neighborhoods and locations with low access to healthy, affordable food?

“It’s hard to believe that 1 in 8 people in Polk County do not have enough food, many of them working adults,” said Polk County Supervisor John Mauro. “The mobile pantry will be a game changer because it will make access to food assistance more convenient.”

The DMARC Mobile Food Pantry was made possible by the Polk County Board of Supervisors and the Partnership for a Hunger-Free Polk County, a \$10 million initiative committed to eliminating food insecurity in Polk County.

Together, DMARC and the Partnership worked to identify areas of Greater Des Moines that lacked access to food.

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BECAUSE NO ONE SHOULD EVER GO HUNGRY

BY REV. SARAI SCHNUCKER RICE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you're hungry, you can go to a DMARC food pantry every day to get food.

Not everyone realizes this is true. We're so used to talking about getting three days of food (or four or five) once a month that we don't realize the limitation only applies to the balanced box of healthy food that you receive from a DMARC pantry.

There's actually other food that's available every day and that you're always welcome to take. The "Anytime Items" food includes:

- Dried beans
- Meals from the Heartland meals and meal packs (taco rice and chili macaroni)
- Fresh fruits and vegetables
- All the donated food, like Fruit Loops or Hamburger Helper, that's higher in sugar, fat and salt
- Bread products, including breads, cookies, cakes, and pastries

Most of the time at most pantries, we don't count how many people come in to help themselves on a daily basis. They don't usually stop to talk to anyone and they're not entered into the database. But once a year we use volunteers to count the daily activity, and thus we know that, over the course of a year, there's as much food going out on a daily basis as is being distributed through our monthly boxes.

Our guarantee, to our clients and to you, is that, if you're hungry, there will always be food, because no one should ever go hungry. That's what we're trying to capture in our new Food Pantry Network tagline – "Because no one should ever go hungry." We hope it helps you better understand our commitment to ending hunger by making sure everyone always has something to eat.

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

Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice
Executive Director



Interior view of the DMARC Mobile Food Pantry. Photo by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.

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DMARC Executive Director Sarai Rice speaks with Polk County Supervisor John Mauro at the unveiling of the Mobile Food Pantry on June 22, 2016. Photo by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.



“The Partnership for Hunger Free Polk County conducted extensive mapping research that highlighted neighborhoods that have a high need but lacked access to food assistance,” said Polk County Supervisor Angela Connolly. “The mobile pantry will allow us the flexibility to reach these neighborhoods.”

As of July 13, the Mobile Food Pantry has established stops at Clive Community Services, the John R. Grubb YMCA, the Norwoodville Senior Center and the South Suburban YMCA.

“The South Suburban YMCA is proud to work with DMARC to provide nutritious food to residents here on Des Moines’ southside,” said Tyler Weig, Executive Director of the South Suburban YMCA. “The South Suburban Y and DMARC make a powerful community-building team and this new partnership is just one more example of the great things that are happening in our community.”

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The DMARC Mobile Food Pantry is stationed at the South Suburban YMCA on Wednesday afternoons. Photo by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.

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The DMARC Mobile Food Pantry can be accessed like any other pantry in the DMARC Food Pantry Network. Visitors go through a short intake process to receive a three-day supply of food, dependent of family size, once per month. The Mobile Food Pantry also carries “Anytime Items” available every day with no intake process, such as donated bread, produce, dried beans, Meals from the Heartland packets and other supplemental items.

In addition to financial support from the Polk County Board of Supervisors and the Partnership for a Hunger-Free Polk County, two individual bequests and a number of local businesses helped make the Mobile Food Pantry a reality, including Schneider Graphics, Stivers Ford Lincoln, Snappy’s Trailer Store and H&H Trailers, who customized the trailer to meet the needs of the Mobile Food Pantry.

“The on-board generator powers the refrigerator and freezer to keep the produce and perishable items fresh,” said Todd Reed of H&H Trailers. “This fully-insulated trailer with air conditioned space keeps everyone comfortable in the summer, while the LP-powered furnace allows the food to be delivered during cold Iowa winters.”

Because the mobile pantry will be operating year-round on a regular basis, partnering organizations must have adequate space for the Mobile Food Pantry to park, an area for pantry visitors to wait away from inclement weather, a public restroom, and volunteers to help assist visitors at the site.

“This fully-insulated trailer with air conditioned space keeps everyone comfortable in the summer, while the LP-powered furnace allows the food to be delivered during cold Iowa winters.”

While there are currently only four locations for the Mobile Food Pantry, ten sites will be confirmed by December: one morning site and one afternoon or evening site for every weekday. If you are interested in establishing a Mobile Food Pantry site at your organization, please contact DMARC at info@dmarcunited.org or 515-277-6969.

The collaboration behind the Mobile Food Pantry reminds us of what a giving community we live in. We have made large strides together in ending hunger in Polk County, but we still have much further to go. However, we know we can count on your help in this journey.

“Being an Iowa based company, we feel very strongly about supporting our state and its citizens,” said Reed. “H&H Trailers is honored and humbled to be a supporting partner of the DMARC Food Pantry Network, and we sincerely hope to continue as it grows and expands in the future.”

“This project has been a long time coming,” said Chris Rohwer. “I was the director of the St. Mary Family Center for 12 years, and remember talking with volunteers about finding a better way to get food to those who need it. I am grateful that some of the James C. Matulef Trust funds could be contributed towards the Mobile Food Pantry.”



Chris and Janece Rohwer, co-trustees of the James C. Matulef Trust, tour the Mobile Food Pantry on June 22, 2016. The Matulef Trust helped provide funds for the Mobile Food Pantry. Photo by Luke Elzinga/DMARC.

“The Mobile Food Pantry provides us with new ways to solve the issue of food insecurity in Greater Des Moines,” said DMARC Executive Director Sarai Rice. “With your continued support, we will increase access to food in areas that need it the most and provide assistance to more people in more locations, because no one should ever go hungry.”

The wheels are in motion. Let’s discover what we can accomplish together. ■

To learn more about the Mobile Food Pantry, please visit:

dmarcunited.org/food/mobile

MEET JOE DOLACK, MOBILE FOOD PANTRY MANAGER



How long have you been working for DMARC?

I have been working for DMARC just over three years. I started as a part-time warehouse associate and driver in April 2013.

What led to your interest in the Mobile Food Pantry?

The direct service with clients in need. Seeing the project grow from an idea to reality has been awesome.

What excites you most about the Mobile Food Pantry?

I am excited about the versatility the mobile pantry has. We have wheels and a generator and can follow the need, reaching the underserved people of Polk County. It excites me to see the clients leaving the mobile pantry happily with food in tow.

How can others get involved?

We will be needing volunteers for morning and afternoon shifts as we expand our sites. You can email me at jdolack@dmarcunited.org or call me at 515-318-9228.

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

LUKE ELZINGA

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SAVE THE DATE: FALL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY

This year's fall delegate assembly will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The assembly will be held at Temple B'nai Jeshurun, 5101 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312. Sharing with us will be Rabbi David Kaufman, DMARC board member and faith leader of Temple B'nai Jeshurun.

CLIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES OPENING



clivecommunityservices.com

Clive Community Services (CCS) will host a Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Monday, August 22, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at their new location, 2190 NW 82nd Street, Suite A, Clive, IA 50325. All are invited to attend.

Clive Community Services will be operating a new DMARC food pantry, and will begin regular hours following the grand opening on August 22. Prior to that date, the DMARC Mobile Food Pantry will be at CCS every Friday from 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.

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, please contact Daniel Beck, dbeck@dmarcunited.org or 515-282-2026.



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.

GO FOR GOLD!

Join us during the Rio summer games as we gather funds and food to benefit the food insecure in Greater Des Moines!

AUGUST 8 - 12, 2016

Business and Congregational Challenge

Participate in food drives and fundraising at your congregation and local businesses in Greater Des Moines!

Go for Gold, Silver, or Bronze with a Donation

Check out our special single-time and recurring giving levels during our Olympics campaign, all month long.



dmarcunited.org/olympics

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 40 YEARS OF FOOD SUPPORT!

This May, the DMARC Food Pantry Network celebrated its 40th Anniversary. To commemorate this occasion, we asked you to help us raise \$10,000 to be matched by an anonymous donor. Not only did you raise \$10,000, but you exceeded it by thousands!

\$13,887.56 was raised to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the DMARC Food Pantry Network - not counting the \$10,000 matched by an anonymous donor! Your ongoing support means so much to us.



DOUGLAS M. WOODS CHALLENGE HUNGER CAMPAIGN RESULTS

DOUGLAS M. WOODS
**CHALLENGE
HUNGER**
C A M P A I G N

The Douglas M. Woods Challenge Hunger Campaign was held this year from March 1 - April 30. The giving challenge raised **\$58,156.48** - not including the \$10,000 match from Doug Woods. Since the Challenge Hunger Campaign began in 2014, it has raised over \$189,000 for the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

To learn more about Doug Woods, his story, and the Challenge Hunger Campaign, visit www.dmarcunited.org/2015/03/challenge-hunger/.



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Des Moines, Iowa 50309

515.277.6969
dmarcunited.org

Warehouse: 515.282.2026
Fax: 515.274.8389
Email: info@dmarcunited.org

Des Moines Area Religious Council
 @dmreligious



Print, cut, tape, save, feed.

Make your own mini Red Barrel donation bank by visiting dmarcunited.org/resources.

DMARC is able to purchase up to six times the amount of food than the average consumer.

When it comes to ending hunger, every penny counts.

www.dmarcunited.org/resources