The DMARC Food Pantry Network is utilizing a new tool to help tell the story of hunger in Greater Des Moines: a client data visualization dashboard.

The data visualization dashboard provides a big picture look at food insecurity in Greater Des Moines. With this new tool, we can identify areas of our community with the greatest need, explore concentrations of senior and childhood food insecurity, and even analyze how individuals move within DMARC’s Food Pantry Network as a whole.

Individually, these data points represent human beings who have to use food pantries to make ends meet. Collectively, they paint a stark reality that is hard to deny—hunger knows no boundaries in our community.

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Join us Thursday, March 1, at the World Food Prize for DMARC’s first of two annual delegate assemblies. Each DMARC member congregation is encouraged to send one faith leader and one lay delegate to the Assembly taking place from 4:30-5:15pm, but all are welcome to attend. We appreciate your input as we give updates on DMARC’s work and elect new members to our Board of Directors.

Following the Assembly there will be a celebration with community leaders, partners, and friends who make our work possible. Please consider joining us for this special event. Tickets start at $25 and in honor of Rev. Rice’s commitment to our community’s health, proceeds from the celebration will support the “Fresh Fund” program to make even more produce available to our pantry clients.

To RSVP for the Delegate Assembly, or to learn more, please contact Rev. Sarah Trone Garriott at (515) 277-6969 or stronegarriott@dmarcunited.org.

You’re Invited!

A DECADE OF MEETING THE NEED
Celebrate ten years of Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice’s leadership as Executive Director of the Des Moines Area Religious Council!

Thursday, March 1, 2018
5:30-7:00 p.m.
World Food Prize Hall of Laureates
100 Locust Street, Des Moines

All proceeds will support the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables through DMARC’s new “Fresh Fund” program in honor of Rev. Rice.

Learn more about tickets and sponsorship levels, and register online at dmarcunited.org/event/sarai10th.

In the past ten years, we have...

- transitioned to a health-focused food supply for our Food Pantry Network, adding fresh fruits and vegetables
- added a fleet of vehicles: two trucks, a van, and our Mobile Food Pantry
- increased the square footage of our food storage capacity by 600%
- decreased our average cost per food item by 49%

In the past ten years, we have...
Did you know there are eight Buddhist temples in Des Moines? Were you aware that there are five Orthodox Christian churches? Have you ever been in the Hindu Temple in Madrid, or just driven by?

Our metro area is an incredibly diverse place, but even folks who live here don’t realize it! Break out of your daily routine and explore your city with the 2018 Iowa Interfaith Exchange: Des Moines Pilgrimage!

Sunday, February 25, 2:00-4:00pm
Parents Hall, Drake University

Participants will have the opportunity to visit religious sites on a giant map of the metro area. Meet your religious neighbors and learn about their worshipping communities. All are welcome at this free event, sponsored by DMARC and The Comparison Project at Drake University.

For more information, please visit: www.iowainterfaithexchange.com

Any questions? Contact me at (515) 277-6969 x19 or stronegarriott@dmarcunited.org.

JOIN US FOR A WEEK OF FOOD SORTING!

On Saturday, May 12, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be holding their 26th annual Stamp Out Hunger® food drive. Once again, DMARC will be the recipient of tens of thousands of food items donated from the drive. That’s where we need your help!

We are organizing hundreds of volunteers to help us date-check, seal-check, and sort these food items during the week of May 14. We are seeking 30 volunteers for every two-hour shift, five shifts per day, Monday through Saturday. Sign up to volunteer online at:

signup.com/go/cpQSRVE
As a former DMARC board member, Tom Fischer made it a personal volunteer project to create the data visualization dashboard after his retirement.

“As a member of the Board, I was aware DMARC was collecting data on clients using the food pantries, so when I retired in 2013, I volunteered to help make better use of the data being collected,” said Tom Fischer. “Having worked on data warehousing and data visualization projects in my career, I felt I could add some value and stay engaged with DMARC when my board term was up—and hopefully make a difference.”

And what a difference the project has made! We now have the data to confirm common trends of food insecurity in our community that have been evident to us for some time now.

“The data visualization dashboard has given us confirmation of a narrative we often address—that hunger really can be found even in areas that are often associated with affluence,” said Daniel Beck, DMARC Food Pantry Network Assistant Director.

“But, when you see it visualized on a map and you can see where our clients come from, it’s not just the poorer areas of Des Moines. People come from all over, including the wealthier suburbs and from neighborhoods where you would have never thought there was poverty.”

Alongside this geographic information, the dashboard also provides the ability to analyze the data and limit searches based on dates, pantry location, or any category of demographic data, such individuals over the age of 65.

The dashboard has been extremely valuable in communicating our work and the true scope of local hunger to elected officials and other change-makers in Greater Des Moines. Included on the map are different overlays for Iowa Senate and House districts, as well as city limits and school districts.

“By analyzing and visualizing this data in different ways, DMARC is able to tell the story of hunger in the greater Des Moines area,” said Fischer. “We are able to show this information to public officials, donors, and others to help them better understand the need for food, which continues to grow.”

Last fall, DMARC’s advocacy committee began meeting with Iowa Representatives and Senators of both parties from the metro area to share our data visualization dashboard with them. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.

“It has not mattered the party affiliation, the age, the gender, or the voting history of who we meet with, they are all very much engaged with the information, and concerned with how they can help out their communities,” said Beck. “The one question we get in nearly every meeting is something to the effect of, ‘How can I help?’”

This screenshot from DMARC’s data visualization dashboard shows a map of Greater Des Moines with client location data for 2017.
Mini Golf Tournament
Design and build mini golf courses using your food collection before donation! Break up into teams and compete for most creative course design and score.

DLL Financial hosts a food drive and mini-golf tournament.

Canned Food Sculpture Contest
Get creative—and competitive—by hosting a sculpture contest using the food collected during your drive. Be sure to share your best creations!

Wells Fargo hosts a sculpture contest with donated food items.

Coin Banks: Red Barrels and Trucks
Our mini Red Barrel and DMARC truck coin banks are a great way for kids of all ages to raise money for DMARC. Contact us to get your coin banks!

GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR DRIVE!

Need Any Other Ideas?
We’re always happy to work with you to make your fund or food drive a success! DMARC can provide our list of most needed items, promotional and educational materials, a hunger simulation, as well as providing a speaker to come talk about the issue of hunger with your workplace or group.

If you’d like to learn more about hosting a fund or food drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network, please contact our Community Outreach and Volunteer Manager at (515) 277-6969 x18 or reach us at info@dmarcunited.org.

And don’t forget—money is always better than food. DMARC can purchase 2-6 times the amount of food that a consumer can at the grocery store with the same dollar. If you want to have a bigger impact, please consider including the option for cash donations as part of your drive.
DMARC’S MISSION:
Working Together to Meet Basic Human Needs.

STAFF:
REV. SARAI SCHNUCKER RICE, Executive Director
LESLIE L. GARMAN, CFRE, Director of Development & Outreach
REBECCA WHITLOW, Food Pantry Network Director

DMARC is excited to announce that loyal contributor Doug Woods has doubled his annual “Challenge Hunger” match from $10,000 to $20,000!

For retired West Des Moines police officer Doug Woods, the convergence of “The Grapes of Wrath,” a primitive southern Iowa home, and a Bible verse led to his self-described “spiritual awakening”—and, soon after, the launch of the first Douglas M. Woods Hunger Challenge to benefit the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

Doug was a picky eater as a child, and his father often reminded him of children in Europe and others who were not getting enough to eat. To emphasize the point, his dad gathered up several bags of groceries and drove with Doug to deliver food to relatives in a primitive Iowa home with little furniture, bare floors and a wood stove for heat. It was an image he never forgot.

Doug said his reading of John Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath”, set during the Great Depression with its vivid portrayal of “people dying of malnutrition every day—in this country”, increased his awareness of hunger.

And, it was a reading of Bible scripture while attending New Hope Assembly of God Church in Urbandale, that spoke to him of “giving to the poor and needy”, and that guided him in his call to service through DMARC.

With the recognition that cash could help DMARC buy more food than he could buy at retail price and donate, Doug began to make monetary donations. But, he felt called to something bigger—to do something more.

The rest is both history and a future in the making, as DMARC announces the sixth year of the Douglas M. Woods Challenge Hunger Campaign. Thank you, Doug!

From March 1 through April 30, 2018, donations to DMARC that are noted as “Challenge Hunger” gifts will be matched dollar for dollar, up to a total of $20,000 given. Your $10 becomes $20, $50 equals $100, and so on.

During this year’s Challenge, your $10 gift will help DMARC provide 35 meals.

Mail your “Challenge Hunger” donation to the DMARC office, or give online at dmarcunited.org/donate.
The time has come for me to move on and pursue other career interests. As I write this, I am just two weeks away from my final day at DMARC. And I wanted to take a moment to reflect on my time here.

It was with a bit of luck and a helping hand that I ended up working for DMARC in June 2011. Like many of our clients, I found myself partially-employed and “scraping by” just to make ends meet. If not for my friendship with the pantry director at the time, I probably would not have found myself working at the old warehouse. Like others in similar situations, I hadn’t realized services like DMARC’s even existed in central Iowa, much less how to access them. But, nevertheless, they needed extra help and I needed a substantial part-time job.

By the time the Red Barrel Coordinator position opened up a year later in 2012, I was already an advocate. I jumped at the opportunity to not only expand my role with the organization, but to help get the message out about the fine work DMARC does and the people they serve. With the move downtown in 2014, opportunities to share their mission with the greater Des Moines community expanded as well.

Unfortunately, as DMARC continued to grow, so did the need. And the trend continues. Every month sees a substantial increase in clients served from the previous year. And every November since I’ve worked here has been a record-breaking month in DMARC history. This shouldn’t be happening anywhere in our country—especially in America’s heartland. But we press on. And through the giving nature of our community (which never ceases to amaze me), we step up to help.

However, we continue to face a challenge. Median wages in this state, as in many other areas of the country, are not keeping up with productivity. We continue to hear how well the economy is doing, but few of us see the fruits of our labor. This wage stagnation, coupled with the exploding costs of healthcare and education, has no doubt contributed to the increased trends we see in our Food Pantry Network usage among the working poor. And it cannot continue.

As I take leave, I urge you to appeal to your legislators, both state and federal, to address these issues. We must try to solve them at the root of the problem. It’s up to us to change our course and empower our working clients to help themselves.

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**TOP FIVE STORES FOR RED BARREL FOOD ITEMS - FY18/Q2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Food Items</th>
<th>Store Director</th>
<th>Volunteer Collector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>550 S. 51st Street, West Des Moines</td>
<td>2,513</td>
<td>Mark Luke</td>
<td>Harlan Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Fareway</td>
<td>100 E. Euclid Ave., Des Moines</td>
<td>1,969</td>
<td>Nick Greiner</td>
<td>Link Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>410 N. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny</td>
<td>1,963</td>
<td>Joel Flug</td>
<td>Link Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>4707 Fleur Drive, Des Moines</td>
<td>1,518</td>
<td>Ryan Roberts</td>
<td>Link Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Price Chopper</td>
<td>4343 Merle Hay Road, Des Moines</td>
<td>1,384</td>
<td>Scott Benter</td>
<td>Johnston Kiwanis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOP FIVE STORES FOR HUNGER SACKS SOLD - FY18/Q2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Hunger Sacks</th>
<th>Store Director</th>
<th>Volunteer Collector</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>550 S. 51st Street, West Des Moines</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>Mark Luke</td>
<td>Harlan Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>7101 University Ave., Windsor Heights</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>Jeff Osborn</td>
<td>Chris Burch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>4707 Fleur Drive, Des Moines</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>Ryan Roberts</td>
<td>Link Associates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Brick St. Market</td>
<td>114 Brick Street SE, Bondurant</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>Renee Hogan</td>
<td>Connie Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>1700 Valley West Dr., West Des Moines</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>Abbie Olson</td>
<td>Northwest Kiwanis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOP FIVE STORES FOR RESCUED FOOD - FY18/Q2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Food Items</th>
<th>Meat/Produce (lbs.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Walmart Supercenter</td>
<td>2150 E 1st Street, Grimes</td>
<td>8,492</td>
<td>15,282.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Hy-Vee Fulfillment Center</td>
<td>3303 86th Street, Urbandale</td>
<td>10,174</td>
<td>162.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Gateway Market</td>
<td>2002 Woodland Ave., Des Moines</td>
<td>6,780</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Whole Foods</td>
<td>4100 University Ave., West Des Moines</td>
<td>3,153</td>
<td>2,848.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Hy-Vee</td>
<td>1725 Jordan Creek, West Des Moines</td>
<td>1,094</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Planned gifts come in different forms, but they share a common trait: they are all contemplated by an individual during their lifetime to take effect at or after their passing. There are many types of planned gifts, with the most common example being a simple bequest in a will, trust or within an estate plan.

As we look to our future and the needs of our community, it’s imperative that we work with donors who are looking to leave a legacy that will benefit DMARC, and more importantly, our clients, for years to come.

Recent changes to the federal tax code have left many individuals with questions on giving. Please reach out to DMARC’s Director of Development & Outreach, Leslie L. Garman, CFRE, lgarman@dmarcunited.org or (515) 277-6969 x13 to speak about your options for leaving a lasting impact.

dmarcunited.org/planned-giving/

Note: in all cases it is recommended you consult your tax professionals.