



Working together to meet basic human needs for the greater Des Moines community.

DMARC has been committed to community action and advocacy in Greater Des Moines for more than six decades, working in partnership with nearly 200 faith communities from across the religious spectrum to support the needs of the community. Support comes in many forms, including cash, donations of food, and service. DMARC is also a leading advocate for the advancement of innovation within the food pantry system.

WHAT DMARC DOES

The DMARC Food Pantry Network is DMARC's largest contribution to the community, with its primary service area as Polk County. Established in 1976, the Food Pantry Network is the state's largest pantry network and annually assists over 50,000 unique individuals. DMARC's Food Pantry Network is comprised of partner food pantries, over two dozen Mobile Food Pantry locations, Refuel Station stops (a program focused on providing children with "grab and go" healthy food items), two food warehouses, and numerous community partners.

In addition to the Food Pantry Network, DMARC engages in a variety of interfaith efforts, including an annual Interfaith Youth Leadership Camp.



HOW IT WORKS

DMARC assists people living with food insecurity in the community by focusing its efforts to ensure that fresh and healthy items are always available to those seeking assistance. DMARC serves as a distribution hub for community partners, maximizing resources to have the greatest impact.

DMARC's centralized warehouse helps leverage resources for partner food pantries by processing, storing, and distributing bulk purchases. This allows DMARC to maximize purchasing power, secure critical resources, and serve as a leading advocate in the fight against food insecurity.



“Volunteering for DMARC is a great opportunity to assist a much-needed program with a highly-valued organization within my community. The programs and services provided by DMARC to people in Greater Des Moines are managed with the utmost care for the individuals they assist.”

—Laura May Chapman, Sammons Institutional Group



Give Funds

DMARC relies on financial support from individuals, congregations, organizations, businesses and corporations, and foundations to fulfill its mission.



These gifts come to DMARC through a number of avenues:

- Annual campaigns
- Sponsorship of DMARC special events, such as their signature event, Spring Greens, or through DMARC’s young professionals group, Young & Hungry
- Special promotions or events
- Corporate and individual matching gifts
- Corporate volunteer time designation

Support helps DMARC continue to meet its mission of meeting basic human needs through the Food Pantry Network. Programs within the Food Pantry Network currently include:

- **Fresh Fund**—supports the purchase and distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables
- **Food Pantry 2.0**—an innovative pantry model that incentivizes making healthy choices at food pantries
- **Refuel Station**—a Mobile Food Pantry designed to encourage healthy eating habits for children and youth
- **Data Visualization Dashboard**—a data analysis and mapping tool that provides a deeper understanding of intersecting issues of poverty such as wages, housing, health issues, and other factors that impact food insecurity in Greater Des Moines

DMARC is able to buy two to six times more food per dollar than a grocery store consumer can buy with the same amount of money.

“Employee Engagement drives our organization and we love the opportunity to give back in meaningful ways in which we can apply our skills and talents. We truly appreciate our partnership with DMARC and hope to continue to cultivate more like these in our community.”

—Phonsavanh Sullins, Businessolver Foundation



Give Food

DMARC maintains that ready access to nutritious food is a basic human right, and its focus on fresh produce and items that are low in sugar, fat, and salt creates a healthier, more productive community.



Ways to support the DMARC Food Pantry Network include:

- **Food and Fund Drives**—a fun and easy way for workplaces, organizations, congregations, and individuals to participate. Collect in-kind food donations, host an online virtual drive, or do both! You can have fun with these year round—host a competitive drive leading up to your favorite sporting event, host a holiday party drive, host a drive to honor milestones like graduations and birthdays, etc.
- **Food Rescue & Recovery**—enables DMARC to strengthen relationships with suppliers and local producers to provide quality items to partner pantries while minimizing food waste.

When donating food to DMARC, please consider the following most-needed items:

- Peanut butter
- Whole grain cereal
- Fruit canned in 100% juice
- Baby formula and baby food



Additionally, DMARC provides personal care essentials like diapers (especially larger sizes), disposable undergarments for children over the age of five and adults, period supplies (pads and tampons), toothpaste, deodorant, soap, and more that help improve the quality of life for people assisted through the Food Pantry Network. Groups may fundraise for these items through a Virtual Drive Jr. or by collecting in-kind donations through a traditional drive.

“DMARC boldly leads our community in distributing fresh foods to those who need it most. They are moving the needle on food insecurity in central Iowa. Wells Fargo is grateful for the opportunity to support DMARC and its dedicated team.”

—Micah Kiel, Wells Fargo



Give Time

DMARC welcomes the time and talents of volunteers to keep our programs successful.

Ongoing volunteer opportunities include:

- **Mobile Food Pantry**—just like helping a friend shop for groceries! As a Mobile Food Pantry volunteer, you will meet at the mobile pantry site and assist pantry visitors in selecting their food items. Training is available.
- **Red Barrel Program**—collect food donations from Red Barrel sites at local grocery stores.
- **Office Assistance**—help with various office tasks such as mailings, database entries, congregational outreach, and more!



Additional volunteer opportunities include:

- **Stamp Out Hunger**®—DMARC’s largest food drive event of the year, in partnership with the National Association of Letter Carriers, with proceeds providing roughly one month’s worth of non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry Network. Volunteers are needed to help sort, process, and package tens of thousands of pounds of donations over the course of one week—a perfect activity for groups!
- **Committees**—offer expertise in event planning and promotions, advocacy, or marketing to further DMARC’s mission in Greater Des Moines.
- **Events**—assist with the on-site execution of DMARC’s signature and special events.

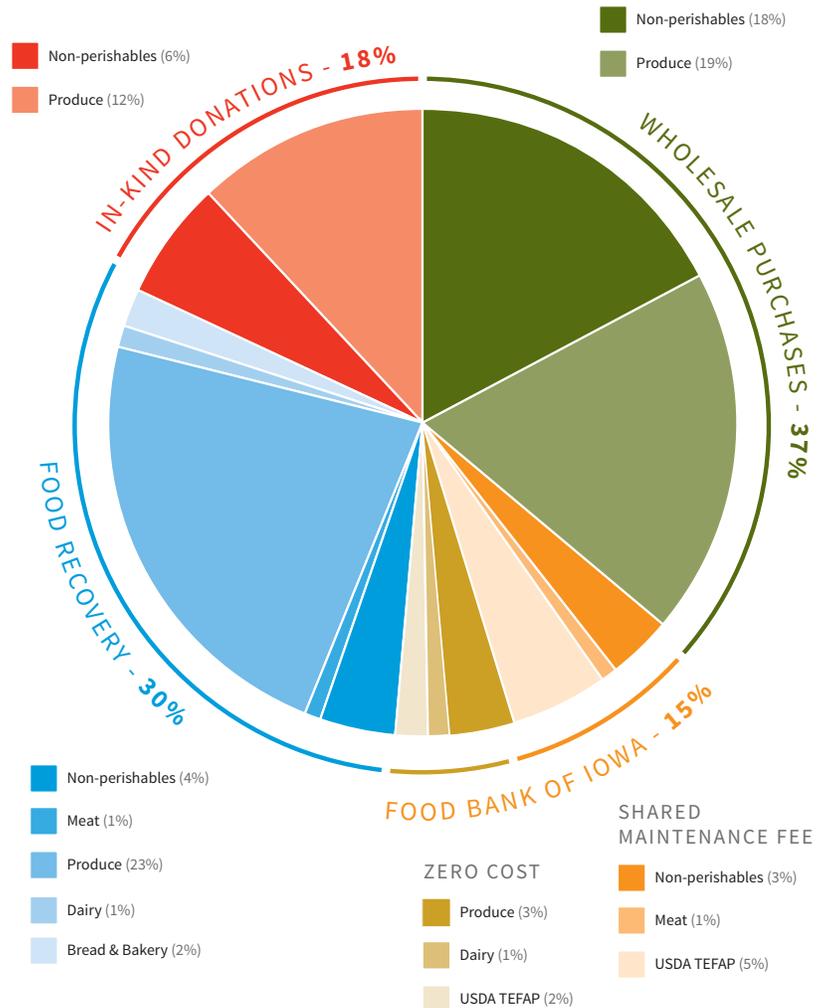


WHERE DMARC'S FOOD COMES FROM

This past year, DMARC distributed nearly five million food items from the following sources:

In FY19, DMARC...

- Distributed nearly **three million produce items** through its Food Pantry Network, **nearly 60% of all food distributed**.
- Recovered over **1.5 million food items** (30%) through its **food recovery program**.
- Obtained over **750,000 food items** (15%) from partners at **Food Bank of Iowa**.
- Purchased over **1.8 million non-perishable and produce items** (37%) from **wholesalers** and food brokers.
- Distributed over **325,000 food items** (7%) obtained through USDA's **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**.
- Received and distributed over **900,000 food items** (18%) **donated in-kind** to DMARC.



WHAT DMARC IS

- Iowa's largest food pantry network
- a data-driven innovator
- rooted in collaboration
- focused on nutrition and healthy food
- an interfaith organization

WHAT DMARC IS NOT

- a food bank or brick and mortar food pantry
- a food manufacturer
- willing to accept status-quo solutions
- going alone in this work
- proselytizing or requiring religious practice

To learn more about how you can support DMARC, please contact Leslie L. Garman, CFRE, Director of Development and Outreach, at lgarman@dmarcunited.org or (515) 277-6969 x13.

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