

HOW TO HOST A DRIVE FOR DMARC

Looking for a local cause to support? Last year, the DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted over 43,000 unique individuals right here in Greater Des Moines. Every month, we assist ~11,000 people in your community.

Inside this toolkit, you will find:

- creative ideas to make your drive a success
- facts about food insecurity in our community
- resources and tools for promoting your drive

**PROVIDE
HEALTHY
FOOD
FOR PEOPLE
LIVING WITH
FOOD INSECURITY**



Ready to get started? Contact us today!

DMARC
UNITED TO MEET THE NEED

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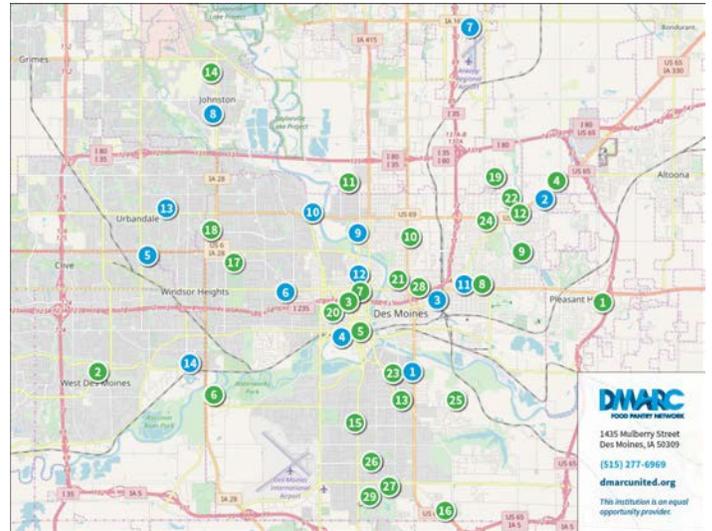
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ABOUT OUR WORK

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) is an interfaith organization with a mission of working together to meet basic human needs in Greater Des Moines. In 2022, the DMARC Food Pantry Network is commemorating its 46th anniversary.

The DMARC Food Pantry Network consists of 15 partner food pantries, two dozen mobile food pantry sites, and numerous community partners. The DMARC Food Pantry Network provides healthy food options and fresh produce to the people we assist. Once per calendar month, people can select a three-day supply of food from any one of our partner food pantries, and AnyTime Items are available whenever our partner pantries are open. Last year, DMARC assisted over 42,000 unique individuals living with food insecurity.



The DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted over 43,000 unique individuals in FY 2022

In 2007, Iowa State University Extension & Outreach conducted a research study at DMARC food pantries and found that the people we assisted were three times as likely to have diabetes than the general population of Polk County, and twice as likely to have heart disease. The research study led to us changing our food supply and how we talk about food insecurity and access to healthy food.

Since then, we have implemented healthy food guidelines and changed our food supply accordingly. We provide healthy food—fresh fruits and vegetables, and non-perishable items low in sugar, fat, and salt. It's not enough for us to just fill stomachs, we want to nourish the people we assist.

This past year, the DMARC Food Pantry Network assisted more people in more places than any other time in our 45 years of food work, and provided a record amount of fresh fruits and vegetables through our partner food pantries.

Unfortunately, the need still continues to rise in Greater Des Moines, but DMARC is here to ensure that no one in our community ever goes hungry.



In fiscal year 2022, one-third of what the DMARC Food Pantry Network distributed was fresh fruits and vegetables.



DMARC'S PURCHASING POWER

Because we purchase food wholesale and in bulk, DMARC is able to buy two to six times more food per dollar than a consumer can buy at a grocery store with the same amount of money.

On average, DMARC can provide a meal for only 79¢.

How much we can buy with your donation:



Fruit Canned in its Own Juice

Fruit that is canned in water or its own juice is a great healthy donation option!

\$1.04 = 1 can

\$50 = 48cans

\$100 = 96 cans

Peanut Butter

Peanut butter is a quick and convenient source of protein for the people we serve.

\$1.89 = 1 jar

\$50 = 26 jars

\$100 = 52 jars



Healthy Cereal

Cereal is one of the staple breakfast items that we distribute through our Food Pantry Network.

\$1.67 = 1 box

\$50 = 30 boxes

\$100 = 60 boxes

TYPES OF DRIVES TO HOST

We're happy to help you along the way, however you decide to structure your drive. You don't have to limit yourself to one type of drive, either! You can combine multiple kinds of drives into one. For example, you could host a drive for both funds and food at your office, while also encouraging donations of personal care items, and have a virtual drive set up to take donations directly online! Whichever type of drive you choose to host will benefit the people we assist in Greater Des Moines.

Fund Drive

As shown on page 4, if you want to do more with your dollar, consider hosting a fund drive for our Food Pantry Network! Collect donations of cash, change, and checks to support our work.



Food Drive

Hosting a food drive is a traditional way to support the DMARC Food Pantry Network. Be sure to check our list of most needed items to make sure you're donating healthy foods we can put to good use!

Diaper/Baby Food Drive

Diapers, formula, baby food, and other supplies for infants and young children are always in high demand at our partner food pantries. Help us meet this need by hosting a drive for baby supplies!

Virtual Food Drive

Hosting a virtual food drive is a fun, easy, and effective way to support DMARC. Contact DMARC and we'll set up a custom page on our website for your group to select food items and make online donations to our Food Pantry Network!

Personal Care Items Drive

Personal care items such as shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. are always greatly appreciated, as DMARC does not use donated funds to purchase these types of items and relies entirely on in-kind donations to keep these items on our shelves.

Period Supplies Drive

Period supplies such as tampons and pads can be costly for menstruating people who are living on a budget. Consider hosting a period supply drive so we can keep our pantry shelves stocked and in good supply.



Red Barrel Event

If your group is smaller in size, consider hosting a Red Barrel event at a grocery store. Collect Red Barrel donations of food and cash from shoppers at a store for a few hours to make a big impact!

CREATIVE THEMES FOR YOUR DRIVE



Tape a Person to the Wall

Sell feet of tape so that you can literally tape a designated person to the wall!

Shave a Person's Head (or Facial Hair)

Similarly, set a fundraising goal and find a willing volunteer to have their head (or facial hair) shaved off when the goal is met!



Free Ticket with Donation

Host a happy hour fund or food drive and encourage donations by providing a free drink ticket to people who bring in a donation. You can also provide tickets for a door prize or choose another way to incentivize donations.



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!



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 on social media and tag DMARC!

Jeans Day

Provide an incentive for people to donate to your workplace fund or food drive, like a sticker that lets you wear jeans for a day.



Hold a Friendly Competition

Hold an inter-office competition to raise the most funds or food for DMARC! This is a perfect type of drive to hold in conjunction with an Iowa vs. Iowa State football tailgate event or other big game! Have a representative from the losing team volunteer for a form of playful humiliation—like a pie in the face!

Host a Trivia Night

Plan a trivia night to raise funds for the DMARC Food Pantry Network! Make your event fun with a theme for the evening and prizes for the winning team. A suggested fee of \$25 per person to attend is recommended. Raise additional funds by selling Mulligans or bonus questions to increase points.

Host A “Souper” Bowl Event

In the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl, organize teams of workers. Create friendly competition by having each team take up a collection of cash and/or food items. Then hold a soup potluck where each team presents their donations. The highest donation team wins the Souper Bowl trophy!



Mini Golf Courses

Have teams each construct a hole for a mini golf course using non-perishable food donations collected during your drive, then have everyone play through the course and award prizes!

Holiday Party Fund & Food Drive

Many organizations, businesses, and other groups hold holiday parties, and these events are perfect to pair with a fund or food drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network! To encourage donations, sell tickets for a door prize, hold contests, and think of other creative ways to spread holiday cheer and give back to your community.

AN OUTLINE FOR HOSTING YOUR DRIVE

1

Plan Your Drive

- Contact DMARC**—Reach out to our Volunteer & Outreach Manager Amanda Parkins, aparkins@dmarcunited.org or (515) 277-6969 x220, to let us know you're planning on hosting a drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network.
- Determine what type of drive you will host**—Are you raising funds, food, both, or maybe a special drive? See page 5 for more details.
- Set a fundraising goal for your drive**—Setting a goal for your fund or food drive will help motivate participants and give them a sense of accomplishment when the goal is met! It also helps us know how much to expect.
- Check your organization's giving policy**—Does your workplace provide corporate contributions or matching gifts for employee donations/volunteer time?

2

Prepare Your Drive

- Make a promotional plan**—Determine how you will raise awareness of your drive. Set a promotional calendar and timeline to plan out when you will inform people of your drive and provide reminders and updates along the way. Get promotional materials created and ready to launch your drive!
- Spread the word**—Get the word out with flyers, emails and social media! (see page 9 for tools and resources)

3

Launch Your Drive

- Collect donations**—Whether it's collecting bins of food or asking people to donate through a virtual drive, get your drive going and start gathering donations! Let people know your goal and deadline.
- Send notifications and updates**—Let people know how the drive is progressing! Give periodic updates throughout your drive and be sure to make one final push for donations before your drive is complete.

4

Complete Your Drive

- Count and box your donations**—Counting and boxing your donations helps DMARC save time and manpower! Package similar items together and put the number of items on the outside of the box.
- Notify DMARC and drop off your donation**—Let us know how your drive went and when you will be dropping off your donation. Then, deliver your donation to our warehouse (east side of building) located at 100 Army Post Road, Des Moines, 50315.
- Share the results**—Let everyone know how you did. Take a photo and share your results — and don't forget to mention DMARC and tag us on social media!
- Volunteer in the DMARC warehouse (optional)**—What better way to finish off your food drive than by volunteering in our warehouse to sort and date-check your donated food?
- Evaluate your outcomes**—What went well and what needs to be improved next time?

Sample Internal Email #1

Hello!

This week we will be holding a fund and food drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network! DMARC assists

~11,000 people every month through its Network of 14 partner food pantries and over two dozen mobile Food Pantry locations. They are committed to providing healthy food options and fresh fruits and vegetables.

That's why we're excited to support their work with our fund and food drive! Bring in your donations of healthy food, personal care items, and cash—DMARC is able to purchase 2-6 times the amount of food with your dollar than you can at the grocery store.

Last year, DMARC assisted over 43,000 unique individuals right here in our community, and 34% of them were children. We're proud to support DMARC and the work they do here, and we hope you will be, too!

From now until [COMPLETION DATE], drop off your donations at [DONATION LOCATION] and help us meet our goal of raising [GOAL] for the DMARC Food Pantry Network and the people they assist!

Sample Internal Email #2

Hi everyone!

As you (hopefully) already know, we are holding a fund and food drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network this week. We've gotten some donations already, but for anyone who has not yet contributed, DMARC has provided us with a couple tips on how to make the most impact with your donation:

- 1. Donate Funds**—DMARC is able to buy a minimum of two times more food per dollar than a consumer can buy at a grocery store with the same amount of money. That's because they buy in bulk and at wholesale rates. So if you want to do more with your dollars, donate funds.
- 2. Donate Healthy Options**—If you are donating non-perishable food items, look for healthy options, such as fruit canned in water or its own juice, whole grain cereal, no sugar added peanut butter, low sodium canned vegetables, brown rice, etc.

Our drive ends on [COMPLETION DATE], so make sure to get your donation dropped off at [DONATION LOCATION] before then to help us meet our goal of raising [GOAL] for the DMARC Food Pantry Network!

Sample Internal Email #3

Hey folks!

Our drive for the DMARC Food Pantry Network is nearly complete! As of today, we're [X]% of the way to meeting our goal of raising [GOAL] for people living with food insecurity in our community.

Help us finish this drive strong! Drop off your donations at [DONATION LOCATION] before [COMPLETION DATE]. Your contribution will make a positive difference in the lives of over 43,000 people in our community living with food insecurity.

Sample Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Blake Willadsen, *Marketing and Communications Manager*, DMARC

bwilladsen@dmarcunited.org; (515) 277-6969 x227

[Your Company] Hosts Drive Benefiting DMARC Food Pantry Network

DES MOINES, Iowa (DATE)—The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) Food Pantry Network recently received a donation from [YOUR COMPANY] of [DONATION AMOUNT]. This donation will allow the DMARC Food Pantry Network to provide more than [DONATION AMOUNT X2] healthy and nutritious meals for families in Greater Des Moines.

“DMARC is grateful for the generous contribution from [YOUR COMPANY],” said DMARC CEO Matt Unger. “Providing healthy, nutritious food for people living with food insecurity in our community is so important, so we thank [YOUR COMPANY] for their assistance in this effort.”

[QUOTE FROM YOUR COMPANY]

DMARC thanks [YOUR COMPANY] for their partnership with DMARC in the fight against food insecurity in Greater Des Moines.

About DMARC:

Mission: 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 nearly seven decades, working with faith communities from across the religious spectrum to support the needs of the community.

The DMARC Food Pantry Network, established in 1976, is today the state's largest pantry network and DMARC's largest contribution to the community, assisting over 40,000 unique individuals in calendar year 2021. It is comprised of 15 partner food pantries, over two dozen Mobile Food Pantry site locations, one warehouse, 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. DMARC's work made possible with the support of a giving community, including over 200 faith communities from five faith traditions that believe that by working together, we can have the greatest impact and meet this important need. To learn more about how you can help please visit www.dmarcunited.org or call (515) 277-6969.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT DMARC

Is DMARC a food bank?

No, DMARC operates a Food Pantry Network. Food banks are organizations in all 50 states that operate under the umbrella of Feeding America. Food banks service other organizations, including DMARC.

Is DMARC a food pantry?

Not quite. DMARC operates a Food Pantry Network, partnering with organizations across the metro area to provide them with food free of charge and managing a common database system. We operate a centralized warehouse to bring food in from donors and wholesalers and send food out to our partner pantries. The DMARC Food Pantry Network has been in operation since 1976.

What are your most needed items?

Because our Food Pantry Network has healthy food guidelines, we always need more healthy options of non-perishable food items (low in sugar, fat, and salt), most specifically whole grain cereal, peanut butter, and fruit canned in its own juice. And keep in mind that we can purchase more with your dollar than you could in the grocery store.

Why do you have healthy food guidelines?

Back in 2007, Iowa State University did a research study that found that people who used our food pantries had three times the incidence of diabetes than the general population of Polk County. Since then, we've adjusted our food supply to focus on healthy food and fresh produce. For us, it's not enough to just fill stomachs, we want to nourish bodies and minds.

What does a typical food pantry visitor look like?

The truth is, there is no "typical pantry visitor." We provide food to children, older adults, young families, immigrants, refugees, students, veterans, single parents, people who are unstably housed, and moderate-income families who are facing any number of crises. Our belief is if you need food, we are here to help.

What is the eligibility to receive food?

There are no income guidelines to receive food from the DMARC Food Pantry Network. We ask that you provide a photo ID for the head of your household and some other form of identification for other members of your household.

How much food are pantry visitors able to receive every month?

Every month, people may receive a three-day supply of nutritionally balanced food from one of our partner food pantries, dependent on family size. Additionally, people may come any day the pantry is open to receive AnyTime Items, which include supplemental non-perishable food items, fresh produce, bread products, and staple food items like rice, dried beans, and Meals from the Heartland and Outreach, Inc. meal packets.

Can DMARC pick up my donation?

Under certain conditions where a large amount of food (typically over 2,000 items) is raised and you are unable to transport it to DMARC yourself, a pick up may be arranged on a case-by-case basis. Scheduling a pick up needs to be done in advance due to our drivers' busy schedules.

In addition to food drives, how else can we engage with DMARC?

DMARC's Data Visualization Dashboard provides a big picture look at food insecurity in Greater Des Moines. We can share data about food insecurity in the community around your workplace, school or organization. Hunger Simulation is another way to engage with DMARC providing a "week in the life" of a real person living with food insecurity. More information at : dmarcunited.org/hunger-simulation/.



Des Moines Area Religious Council
100 Army Post Rd., Des Moines, IA 50315

(515) 277-6969
www.dmarcunited.org

Connect with us



Des Moines Area Religious Council @DMARCunited