



INTRODUCING THE DMARC-KET SOUTHSIDE FOOD PANTRY

**BY LUKE ELZINGA,
COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY MANAGER**

On Thursday, September 29, the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony. The new food pantry is located on-site at DMARC's new headquarters at 100 Army Post Road.

In the following four weeks, the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry assisted over 1,000 people, and one in four visitors had never before been assisted by the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

The new food pantry had been a long-time dream for DMARC that was years in the making.

continued on page 4...

IN THIS ISSUE:

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
THREE WAYS TO HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GIVING THANKS

BY DENISE BUBECK, DMARC PRESIDENT

As I began this year humbled to serve as President of the DMARC Board of Directors, I wanted to lead with the virtue of gratitude. I know I speak on behalf of the Board in saying our hearts are full of gratitude for all the DMARC Food Pantry Network staff and volunteers who go above and beyond each day. They have seen record-breaking numbers at food pantries and supply chain issues in food delivery, but they did not give up. They continued to look for innovative ways to deliver food effectively to our neighbors in need.

One of those innovative ideas came to a reality this September when the doors opened to the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry. The DMARC-ket is unique as it is housed in our very own building. It has been a very busy food pantry with many relationships being built with individuals and families right here in our own neighborhood. Community, relationship, and food are elements to development. When people are connected in meaningful ways, communities thrive.

We will continue to advocate to strengthen SNAP benefits with our elected officials on the state and federal level. We believe when families receive support from these benefits, they can stretch their existing food budget and purchase healthier food for their family.

The entire DMARC staff is truly amazing after the last two years! Challenges continue to arise, but they never miss a beat; they keep moving forward. They strive to think outside the box to serve our neighbors. It is because of our amazing volunteers and donors that we can continue serving the greater Des Moines community.



As we go into the holiday season it is with grateful hearts for each of you who give of your time and finances so that DMARC can fulfil its mission to meet basic human needs for the greater Des Moines community.

I will end with this quote as it speaks the best to all of our staff, stakeholders, volunteers, donors, and board of directors who give generously to the mission of DMARC every day!

Let's be grateful today for the people who, when adversity closes a door in their face, find a way to open a window for us all. —Sally J. Pederson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Bubeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Bubeck
DMARC President



THREE SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

BY LESLIE L. GARMAN, CFRE, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

Every day, our neighbors are making decisions between filling their gas tank or filling a prescription; choosing between putting food on the table or keeping a roof above their head. Times are tough, but thankfully, the DMARC Food Pantry Network is here to help.

We could not fulfill our mission without the generosity of individuals, faith communities, companies, and organizations who call Greater Des Moines home. While there are a multitude of ways that you can support the work of DMARC, we wanted to highlight three simple ways you can make a difference this holiday season.

DMARC Holiday Cards

This year you have a special opportunity to support DMARC and get some adorable holiday cards in the process! DMARC worked with local fifth graders who created holiday card designs highlighting building community through healthy fresh fruits and vegetables. You can make a donation online or in-person and receive three complimentary cards upon request—great for the holidays or at any other time of the year!

Make a Tribute or Memorial Gift

What do you get the person who has everything? Making a tribute gift to DMARC in their name is the perfect way to show that you care.

Stop by DMARC's office to make a tribute gift or a memorial gift honoring the life and legacy of a family member or friend. We'll provide you with one of the cards above so you can personally give the card to that special someone for the holidays!



AmazonSmile

When you support DMARC through AmazonSmile, 0.5% of all your purchases on Amazon go to support DMARC and our mission of meeting basic human needs for Greater Des Moines.

If you're doing your holiday shopping online, please keep us in mind! With every purchase, you could be helping us meet the need. Simply visit smile.amazon.com when you do your shopping, and make sure you have DMARC selected as your charity of choice!

Make your contribution today:
dmarcunited.org/donate

...continued from cover

On September 29, DMARC held a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry. The food pantry is located on-site at DMARC headquarters, 100 Army Post Road on the south side of Des Moines. The new food pantry became the 15th food pantry in the DMARC Food Pantry Network, and the first brick-and-mortar food pantry that DMARC has staffed and operated as an organization.



Photo: DMARC CEO Matt Unger cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry on September 29, 2022.

"We have been so excited to open the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry," said DMARC CEO Matt Unger. "The new food pantry is right on a main bus line and fills a gap in our service area, with the next closest DMARC partner food pantry located over three miles away. And with a WIC office, St. Vincent de Paul, IowaWORKS, and several medical clinics nearby, we hope to create a 'care corridor' on the south side where people can access multiple services within a short distance of each other."

Sign up to volunteer at the DMARC-ket:
dmarcunited.org/volunteer

DMARC-ket

SOUTHSIDE FOOD PANTRY

Like other food pantries in the DMARC Food Pantry Network, people can access food at the DMARC-ket on both a monthly and daily basis. Once per calendar month, visitors can select their own three-day supply of food, dependent on household size. This is a guaranteed supply of food that meets DMARC's nutrition guidelines and includes cereal, grains, protein items, canned goods, and fresh fruit and vegetables.

In addition to food, visitors to the DMARC-ket can also receive baby food, diapers, pet food, period supplies, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other household goods on a monthly basis.

Visitors can also access "AnyTime Items," which are available every single day the DMARC-ket is open. And while AnyTime Items may not meet the same nutritional guidelines as the monthly supply and are subject to what's available on a particular day, they ensure that no matter what, you'll be able to leave the pantry with food that day.

The DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry had a soft opening on September 6, allowing about three weeks for staff and volunteers to get their feet under them before the grand opening.



During the soft launch between September 6-28, 327 individuals were assisted at the DMARC-ket. In the three weeks following the grand opening, September 29-October 19, over 1,000 individuals were assisted at the DMARC-ket. The new food pantry has quickly become the 5th busiest pantry in the DMARC Food Pantry Network.

The DMARC Food Pantry Network is assisting more people than ever before in its 46-year history. And we haven't even seen the worst of it yet.

"The number of people we're already assisting at the DMARC-ket is surprising, though not entirely unexpected," said Unger. "There is a lot of need right now in the community, and we knew this new location would fill a gap in our service area."

Andrew Firestine, who joined DMARC as a Mobile Food Pantry Associate in 2018, is now the DMARC-ket Food Pantry Manager. His new role is similar to previous work on the Mobile Food Pantry, but with greater responsibilities and more people going through the food pantry. And while Andrew manages the food pantry full-time, he relies on a great deal of volunteer support to keep the food pantry running smoothly.

Volunteering at the DMARC-ket is just like helping a friend shop for groceries. Volunteers assist visitors in bagging their food items, carrying items out to vehicles, and re-stocking pantry shelves. Volunteer shifts are two to three hours in length.

The DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry is open from 9:00am-4:00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays; 11:00am-6:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays; and 9:00am-1:00pm on the first Saturday of the month. Once per calendar month, visitors can receive a three-day nutritious supply of food, with AnyTime Items available daily.

"We're here to help," said Firestine. "There's no judgement—no matter why you need to use the food pantry, you're welcome here."

MEET ANDREW FIRESTINE, FOOD PANTRY MANAGER



When did you start at DMARC and how has your role changed since then?

I started as a Mobile Food Pantry Associate in 2018. A lot of the work in the DMARC-ket is similar, just on a larger scale and with more variety of products. I was given a lot of freedom in how to set up the food pantry, with some input from staff. It was basically a blank slate.

What is your favorite part about managing the DMARC-ket Southside Food Pantry?

The busyness of it. I'm not a person who likes to stay still for too long. I miss interacting with some of the regulars from the Mobile Food Pantry sites I used to visit, but I'm getting to know a whole new group of people here. I've been getting to learn everyone's names, which is nice. It makes people feel more comfortable and welcome at the food pantry.

What's the most challenging part of managing the food pantry?

While I do like staying busy, the lack of down time can be difficult. And if we don't have enough volunteers signed up for a shift, that makes things even more challenging.

What would you like our supporters to know?

We're helping a lot of people here. I've heard several stories from pantry visitors about how the food pantry has helped them. I encourage our supporters to come out and volunteer at the DMARC-ket and see what it's like.

Working Together to Meet Basic Human Needs.

STAFF:

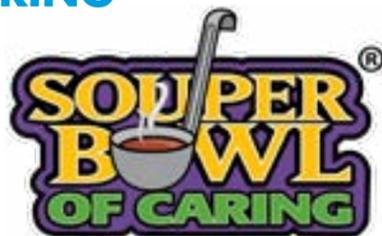
- MATT UNGER,**
Chief Executive Officer
- LESLIE L. GARMAN, CFRE,**
Director of Development & Outreach
- REBECCA WHITLOW,**
Food Pantry Network Director
- DANIEL BECK**
- MICHELLE CHUMBLEY**
- MONICA CURL**
- JEFFREY CZERWIEC**
- JOE DOLACK**
- LUKE ELZINGA**
- CARL EVANS**
- ANDREW FIRESTINE**
- CHRIS HAUGEN**
- PAMPHILE KIWAYIELE**
- JOHN MCPHEE**
- PATRICK MINOR**
- AMANDA PARKINS**
- REV. SARAH TRONE GARRIOTT**
- KEN WITMER**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FY23:

- DENISE BUBECK,**
President
- LISA LOGAN,**
President Elect
- IHSAN YASEEN,**
Secretary
- RANDY JENSEN,**
Treasurer
- CHRIST NAUMANN,**
Past President
- LUAI AMRO**
- SHASHANK AURORA**
- RACHEL COLLIER MURDOCK**
- MATT DURHAM**
- TARA KRAMER**
- REV. RACHEL MITHELMAN**
- STUART OXER**
- REV. RYAN RUSSELL**
- MATTHEW STRAWN**
- EMILY WEBB**
- RON BEANE** *(Advisory)*

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Support the DMARC Food Pantry Network with a fund or food drive during the Souper Bowl of CaringSM!



We'll give you all the tools you need in January, including a "how to" packet, FAQ sheet, and a hunger simulation that can help you tell the "why" of food insecurity in our community. If your congregation is interested in getting involved, please contact Rev. Sarah Trone Garriott at (515) 277-6969 x 222 or stronegarriott@dmarcunited.org.



Your Legacy. Our Community.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY TO DMARC

The Just One Society is DMARC's legacy society. It is comprised of individuals—both living and past—who believe so much in our mission that they have made a financial commitment to our organization which will help us not just today—but tomorrow.

One of the simplest way to make a legacy gift is through your will. You can leave all or a percentage of your estate to DMARC, ensuring that DMARC is here for those in need far into the future. You can also give a gift through your life insurance policy or a gift of property.

Whichever way you elect to give, DMARC will ensure that your legacy continues through our mission. Want to learn more? Contact DMARC Director of Development & Outreach Leslie Garman, CFRE, at lgarman@dmarcunited.org or (515) 277-6969 x 215.

MEET THE NEWEST DMARC TEAM MEMBERS



MICHELLE CHUMBLEY
WAREHOUSE ASSOCIATE

Michelle Chumbley joined DMARC as a Warehouse Associate in September 2022. In her role, Michelle manages inventory, picks orders for DMARC's partner food pantries, and unloads and loads trucks with food. Michelle graduated from Iowa State University with a degree in Sociology and Environmental Studies. She is a proud lifelong resident of the south side. Michelle enjoys outdoor recreation (especially kayaking and paddle boarding), spending time with her Beagle, and is a die-hard Baltimore Ravens fan.

CARL EVANS

GRANT WRITING AND STORYTELLING MANAGER

Carl Evans joined DMARC as the Grant Writing and Storytelling Manager in August 2022. Carl grew up in central Iowa farming with his family. After high school, he joined the Marine Corps and served with Echo Company right here in Des Moines when they were deployed to Desert Storm.

He graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in Sociology with an emphasis in Juvenile Justice. Carl has over 20 years of experience in grant writing, fundraising, program development and management, nonprofit management, and board development in the nonprofit sector. In his free time, Carl enjoys spending time with his family and friends, and being in the outdoors hunting, fishing, or riding his motorcycle.



AMANDA PARKINS
VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH MANAGER

Amanda Parkins joined DMARC as the Volunteer and Outreach Manger in September 2022. Previously, Amanda has worked in human service positions for 5 years with a variety of experience in family dynamics, dependent adult care, background history, volunteer recruitment, and involvement within the community. Amanda is always open to learning new things, taking on new opportunities and working effectively with diverse populations.

Amanda enjoys traveling to new places and experiencing new environments to make memories with her friends and family. She loves cooking to explore different tastes and to entertain guests over a meal. And she partakes in outdoor activities such as camping and hiking to enjoy natural environments. Amanda is a graduate of Iowa State University and received her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology in 2018. Amanda is very enthusiastic to serve others in her community.



Des Moines Area Religious Council
100 Army Post Road
Des Moines, Iowa 50315

(515) 277.6969
dmarcunited.org

 **Des Moines Area Religious Council**
 **@DMARCunited**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DES MOINES, IOWA
Permit No. 2934



SUPPORTING DMARC IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

For Food Pantry Network Director Becky Whitlow (pictured above on the left), DMARC is a family affair! Her parents, Lennice and Robert Boles, were longtime supporters of DMARC, a passion they passed down to Becky. She remembers participating in one of the first ever food drives for the DMARC Food Pantry Network in 1976. This legacy of giving back is something Becky has passed on to her children, too. We encourage you to make supporting DMARC a family affair as well!

Learn more at: dmarcunited.org/fall-appeal

