



August 2021

Extended Hands Pantry

Feeding Body & Soul

Welcome!

We hope you enjoy catching up with us! If you would rather not receive this newsletter, please let us know. Email us at info@extendedhandspantry.org or call 608-213-5114.

We need more volunteers! Please let us know if you are able to help sort and organize food boxes or load them into cars.

Have you signed up for email updates yet? You can do that from our website, www.extendedhandspantry.org.

Here is our mailing address:

Extended Hands Pantry
PO BOX 7372
Madison, WI 53707-7372

Our Mission: Serve our area families and individuals with compassionate acts of love. Encourage, educate, and nourish our



Would you find this list overwhelming?

Every summer, parents of school-age children receive a lengthy list of needed school supplies. Imagine that you are a single mom or dad of two young children. Or that you are a father who lost his job during COVID and have been working long hours in a job for which you're over-qualified to support your wife and three kids.

Then you receive the list from school. It is overwhelming. You've been struggling to keep food on the table and now you're supposed to buy a box of 24 colored pencils, a package of washable markers, two boxes of facial tissue, two dry erase markers for the classroom, and so many other things for each child.

People like you make it possible for Madison area children to have a backpack and all the necessary school supplies. Here's how you can help!

Our annual Back to School Bash is a go this year!

When: Saturday, August 28

Where:

Northport Apts noon—3:00 PM

Packer Townhouses 3PM—6:00PM

What: A delicious picnic lunch, games

and crafts for kids, face painting, and a bounce house

What else:

We need volunteers to make it happen!

Please con-

tact us for more info or to help:

jen-

jen@extendedhandspantry.org.

This year's event will be extra special after being forced to cancel last year due to the pandemic. The Northport Apartments and Packer Townhouses on the north side of Madison are 100% low-income housing communi-



A delicious lunch! Back to School 2019

Back to School Continued

They house many families that struggle week to week even without providing all the school supplies their kids require. At the same time, many children may have a negative experience if they don't have any school supplies when they start school.

Because of you, the single mother or father of two and the young father and mother of three will be able to send their children to school this fall with everything

they need. Because of you, they will know that there are people who love Jesus who also love them. Because of you, instead of wondering how they can get what their children need for school, they can focus on loving and caring for their children each day.

Here are three easy ways you can make a huge difference in a child's life:

1. Donate school supplies. We are collecting them throughout the month of August. You can find a list of supplies and details on the event at

www.extendedhandspantry.org/backtoschool.

2. Donate online at www.extendedhandspantry.org/donate and we'll buy the school supplies for you.

3. Help at the Back to School Bash! We need LOTS of volunteers to serve a delicious picnic lunch, facilitate kids' crafts and games, paint faces, and run the bounce house.

Please contact us for more info or to help: jenny@extendedhandspantry.org

Moving? ... Inside?

Almost every week a pantry shopper will ask if we plan to continue outside or if we'll eventually have space indoors. It's humbling when they express concern for our volunteers working outside in the heat, rain, cold, snow... you get the picture!

We do have a goal to move inside at Lighthouse Church and School. This project is part of a larger project that will provide adequate instructional space for the school,

along with space for the food pantry.

There have been meetings at Lighthouse with general contractors, architects, and engineers. Currently, the plans are somewhat fluid, but we hope and pray this firms up soon. We are grateful for the careful planning that will ensure the space will be perfect for a food pantry!

We are very pleased to report that we have made some progress towards this project, as a generous donor has already funded

most of the fixtures that we need. However, we still need to raise funds for the refrigeration and loading dock. The refrigeration cost is about \$12,500 and the loading dock will be about \$30,000.

Is this something you could help with? We need your help to move forward. Any assistance towards moving

the food pantry inside would be greatly appreciated by us and all our wonderful volunteers!

It's been interesting to operate completely outdoors for over a year now, but we are all looking forward to having indoor space available soon. Having an indoor pantry has huge advantages for both shoppers and volunteers. Besides the obvious protection from the weather, it also allows us to offer more options from which pantry shoppers can choose. Thank you for your consideration! Please keep us in your hearts and prayers as the details of the plan are worked out.

Upcoming events! Mark your calendars!

Turkey Basket Drive,

October 15—November 15

Giving Tuesday, November 30.



Very rainy pantry day!

Too Much Hamburger Helper?



Jenny and Andy Czerkas

You have been a part of serving approximately 5,000 families since April 2020 through the mobile food pantry at Lighthouse Church and School. We are so grateful to you

who have invested financially in making this happen! During this difficult time, it is a blessing to be able to help hundreds of families to keep food on the table. We hold the pantry twice a week because of the partnership and prayers of many individuals and churches.

We've been working hard over the last year to provide culturally appropriate foods. As part of this, we've started a fun and interesting project: Surveying our pantry shoppers on what foods they

require and prefer to feed their families. Everyone has taken the time to fill out the three-page survey! They seem pleased that we care about helping them get the foods they prefer to eat.

Sometimes this can make the food pantry a difficult endeavor. For example, there has been a lot of free Hamburger Helper available, but the Latino families that come are not familiar with it and prefer to cook from scratch. The most popularly requested items are fresh fruits and vegetables, with some participants saying they would like to eat tomatoes, leafy greens, and avocados every day. We have also been providing corn flour for tortillas rather than white flour, in addition to canned goods like chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, diced tomatoes, and salsa.

We are eternally grateful to be able to continue helping in these trying times. God has put one of our favorite verses in our minds for this season: "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me,'" Matthew 25:40. Thank you for your part in doing what you do for Jesus!

She Helps Immigrants Eat Well

Donor Spotlight

Our organization is completely dependent on the individuals and churches that provide support each month. One amazing woman, Jasoda, helps each month in a unique way. She works at Walmart near Lighthouse Church, and spends a portion of her earnings every month to provide food for our mobile pantry.

As Jasoda explained, "I was an immigrant myself years ago and I know firsthand how hard it is to provide the food that my family wants to eat. Now it's important to me to help other immigrants eat well." She typically purchases fresh fruits and vegetables for us to distribute. What a treat for our pantry shoppers! Her selfless

giving
ages



encour-
us!

Jasoda and her son dropping off food!



“My Dad Was So Ashamed That He Couldn’t Provide For Us”

As an organization that runs 100% on volunteers, we are very grateful for all the fabulous helpers that keep the pantry operating smoothly week after week. We would not be able to do what we do without them!

Earl and Mary Reiner have been outstanding volunteers at the pantry since the very beginning. Earl started by getting the truck loaded with food boxes from Second Harvest and CAC, while Mary helped to organize and distribute bags of food. We recently asked them why they come back every week to help.

Earl’s faith is what keeps him motivated. He referred to several scriptures that instruct us to care for the less fortunate.

“This is really the centerpiece of the gospel,” Earl stated, “for God has called us to love our neighbors as ourselves.” He enjoys loading the groceries up into vehicles, as he greets each person and treats them as a special individual.

Earl feels strongly that it is important to “do something,” and that “helping others is not a burden,” but rather a blessing. He went on to say, “What we offer is a huge help to people. It is a privilege to show God’s love to them in a meaningful way.”

Mary is motivated both by her faith and her childhood. “My family was very poor,” she explained. “We didn’t always have

enough to eat and there were no food pantries back then. My dad was so ashamed that he couldn’t provide for us.” Mary went on to explain how her family experienced several evic-



Earl & Mary Reiner

tions and having the power cut off and said, “It kills me to see people going hungry! I know what it is like to not have enough, and it’s given me a huge heart to help.”

Earl and Mary would like to encourage more people to volunteer: “Taking a couple hours a week to help someone out is time very well spent!”

Earl and Mary have been volunteering for over 22 years! You’ll see them at the pantry, or serving lunch at the Back to School Bash, or helping with the neighborhood Christmas parties.

Would you like to join our fun group of volunteers? Contact us for more information!



Volunteers loading up cars with groceries

Extended Hands Pantry, EIN 83-4321269, is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization and your contribution is tax deductible.