



Food for the Hungry, Inc

Spring 2014



From the President's Desk WOW!

Columbia, the monthly magazine of the Knights of Columbus that goes out to its 19 million members ran a 4 page article on *Food for the Hungry, Inc.*

Our November dinner for the Veterans was a great success. We partnered with the Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative. MHVI has been growing and reaching to serve the men and women who have served our country and are having problems getting back into life after service.

Over the past year they have found housing for over 700 men and women who became homeless after serving our country.

We recently added a major bakery donor to our suppliers: Sara Lee. This allows us to help pantries and programs on Milwaukee's north side.

It's not just Bread any more: We have been receiving other products from CVS Pharmacy, Dollar Tree, Lange, Bed Bath and Beyond ...things that would have gone in the dumpster but we have been able to distribute to needy families

But we've some sad news too. **Doug Schuh**, one of our volunteers passed away recently.

Also **Charlie Ruzick**, took a tumble on the ice, breaking his wrist and pelvis. Charlie is at Clement Manor working on recovery.

John Schmitz
Board President

Calendar of Events

April 27, 2014
Spaghetti Dinner
Knights of Columbus Hall
1800 S. 92nd Street
West Allis WI 53214

3:30 to 7:30
\$7.00 for adults
\$5.00 children 5-12
Under 4—free

There will be entertainment
Raffles etc.



We will again invite needy Veterans to the dinner.

If you'd like to sponsor dinner for Veterans, send your donation to

Food for the Hungry, Inc
405 Lynnwood Lane
Brookfield WI 53005

Note "Veterans" in the memo line on your check.
Your contributions are tax deductible

Check our Website
foodforthehungryinc.org

Coordinator's Notes

Recent articles in the news featured programs that we have partnered with over the years.

We again partnered with **Hunger Task Force** providing bakery for the Thanksgiving baskets to the needy. We also supplied the bakery for the Christmas dinner sponsored by **Salvation Army** feeding over 8,000 a Christmas dinner.

A recent front page article for **La Causa** crisis nursery touched our hearts. This was our first pantry when we began the program a dozen years ago.

Pastor Cindy Neely works with the Street Ministry for needy.

Mary Gracia works with the Bridge of Hope, providing refuge for abused children.

We received boxes of Christmas toys which were distributed by **Urban Heart Ministries**, a group that goes door to door

Sister Shirley Forbes delivers bakery and food to over 50 families in need.

The Open Door Café provides bag lunches for the needy, while some firehouses provide sandwiches for needy men, women and children in their neighborhood.

The list goes on and on. There's hardly a program serving the needy in our area that we do not partner with. We have met some of the most wonderful and dedicated people. When we began we had no idea of the extent of poverty and need.

Mike Czarnecki,
Coordinator

Officers and Team Leaders

President John Schmitz
Vice Pres. Jim Luther
Secretary Betsy Derfus
Treasurer Jerold Fetzer
Directors Frank Jelen
 Sharon Kimball
 Doris White
 Charlie Ruzick
 John Marino

Team Leaders

Sharon Kimball
 Fran Powell
 Mary Williams
 Dick Bielefeld
 George Berger

Operations Coordinator

Mike Czarnecki

Administration Assistant

Irene Czarnecki

Technical Dr. Steven Johnson

Phone Numbers:

Mike 414-771-0715

John 262-784-6591

Address:

Food for the Hungry, Inc
 405 Lynnwood Lane
 Brookfield WI 53005

*Food for the Hungry, Inc.
 is a 501 (c) 3 organization
 EIN # 20-8277733*

Donations are tax deductible.

*Poverty and need
 Have many causes
 Speak many languages
 And are of many faiths*

Westward Ho !

We've expanded our distribution to areas west of Milwaukee. **John Pirkel** from Watertown gathers bakery from Oconomowoc and delivers it to the Beaver Dam Food Pantry. Like many of our distribution points, they redistribute to other programs. Some of their food goes as far west as Wisconsin Dells and Tomah.

Regular distributions reach out to pantries in **Mukwonago, Fort Atkinson, Whitewater, Lake Geneva**, etc. The need isn't confined to the urban areas any more...

If we have the product and someone to deliver it, we'll help. We're growing, but



We're not in Kansas yet.

Our agreement with our donors is that we will not sell any of the food that we receive.

We also have a "Hold Harmless" agreement with each of our receiving programs to remove any liability that may arise from the food we distribute.

We make every attempt to have the food we receive delivered to the receiving programs as soon as possible. Usually this is within hours. It is a perishable product so we can't store it for a long time.

There's always a time frame for our volunteers to pick up food at the donor sites. There have been other programs that are not reliable to pick up product, and this is not acceptable.

We also make every attempt to leave the sites clean and orderly after we have picked up product.

Running the Show

The complexities of any program serving the needy can be overwhelming. Food for the Hungry, Inc. and the people we serve owe a big "Thank You." to Mike Czarnecki. Let's take a look at a typical day:

- The volume and variety of food available at any of our donor sites varies from day to day. One day there might be 40 stacks with 15 trays each, or about 7,000 loaves of bread.
- This means probably 15 drivers from this one site to collect the food.
- Where should it be delivered? If there's a large volume, or a small volume, who should get what today? There are the "regulars" and those who receive product only when it's available.
- It's important to control the donor side to that everything is handled in an orderly fashion...and the site is left clean afterward.
- It's critical that the product is picked up when the donor sites indicate. If we say we're going to be there, we have to be there.
- Knowing what pantries are in the greatest need. If a receiving program has more than they need, will some of it go to waste?

Yes, this is all in a days work for Mike Czarnecki. Thank You Mike, from the many poor who have something to eat because of your hard work.





This winter has been cold, windy with lots of snow. Yet our volunteers brave the elements to deliver bread to the needy.

While our volunteers work in cold and wind and snow, when they arrive at pantries to deliver bread they see the poor gathering in line, wearing several layers of clothing. Some of them have been outside during the night.

Many of our donors give used clothing that is always welcome.



Also welcome at most of our pantries are hygiene products, soap, shampoo, shaving supplies, deodorant. Several of our donor stores give Food for the Hungry, Inc. their surplus on a regular basis.

There are so many things in our daily lives that we take for granted, but that the poor among us are forced to go without.

It is painful to see things going into a dumpster and to a landfill when we know there are poor people among us who could very well use them.

Women Homeless?

When we think of the homeless we usually think of men with a beard sleeping under a bridge. However at the pantries we serve, a large percentage of the homeless are women—and their children. Some may spend the night in a shelter, or on the couch in a friend's house.

About a fourth of the homeless veterans are women. Many of them have children. Several of the programs



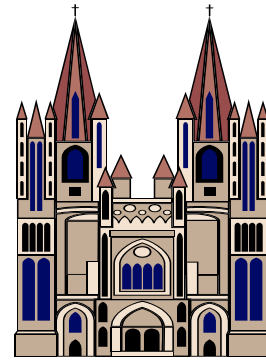
we serve deal with children who are at risk, even in danger for their lives. We read about custody battles going violent, but there are many more than we ever hear about.

Usually these shelters for battered and abused women and children are rather secretive about their locations and who is being sheltered. These are problems that just don't float away.



How Did It Happen?

- A company closes its operation, leaving hundreds of employees. Without a paycheck the downward spiral begins.
- Marriages fail, putting a strain on the couple and their children.
- Unable to make mortgage or tent payments—eviction.
- Mental and emotional illness often from military service.
- Physical disabilities that make it difficult to hold a job.
- Addictions to drugs, alcohol, gambling.
- Criminal records in the past.



Over the past dozen years we have seen the mission of many churches change or evolve. Where a few years ago people gathered in their Sunday finest to pray, sing a few hymns and listen to a sermon, today we are finding more and more churches reaching out to the poor in their neighborhoods, providing food, clothing, shelter and a multitude of services.

A few decades ago churches focused on sin and avoiding hell. That guilt machine broke down, and today churches try to serve the needs of those less fortunate. They are living the Gospel: *I was hungry and you brought me food, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was homeless and you took me in.*

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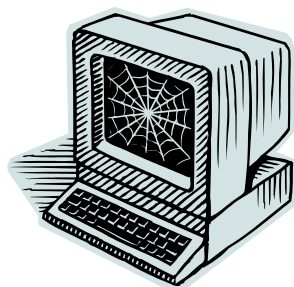
Place Postage
here

Visit our Website

foodforthehungryinc.org

You'll see some of our history, as well as up-coming events, news, etc. We're grateful to Steven Johnson for his expertise in setting up the program and updating it on a regular basis. And he donated all his time! Thanks, Steve.

There is another Food For the Hungry, operating out of Arizona. That's not us, but recently they have added "inc" to their web address. We're the one operating out of Brookfield.



How Can You Help?

- If you can spare a couple hours during the week to deliver food to a pantry, give Mike a call at 414-771-0715.
- If you have clothing, furniture, or anything a poor family can use, give us a call.
- If you work with a food pantry or other program serving the poor, and would like to become a part of Food for the Hungry, Inc. give us a call.
- If you'd like to make a cash donation to help us meet expenses, send it to
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We have several donors who send ea check each month.

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We have no paid staff, do not have buildings to store what we receive. It is distributed promptly to those who need it.

We do not re-sell anything we receive.

Our 400 plus volunteers are among the most wonderful people we have ever met. We don't pray to Saints, we work with them.