



The Neighborhood Table ■ P.O. Box 512 ■ Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 ■ (715) 422-1980 ■ www.theneighborhoodtable.org

Our mission is to reduce hunger in our community, improve quality of life for our residents and create awareness of needs that exist in our community.

For Immediate Release

June 12, 2015

Results of recent mobile food pantries from Feeding America announced



WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. – The Neighborhood Table (TNT), a free community meal program, and the South Wood Emergency Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) partnered with Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin to recently bring two mobile food pantries to Wisconsin Rapids. According to Dale Bikowski, president of TNT, the numbers have been tallied and are now being shared.

Each truck from Feeding America brought approximately 19,000 pounds, or a total of 38,000 pounds, of food to Wisconsin Rapids. Each truck served about 1,160 people from about 400 households including about 420 children, 610 adults and 130 seniors. According to Bikowski, “We are pleased that the second pantry held in May was so close to the end of the school year so there would be food in the households while children are off from school.”

In order to qualify for food from the mobile food pantry, participants needed to show proof of Wood County residency (such as a recent utility bill or driver’s license) and qualify for any of the various food assistance programs (such as SNAP, WIC, Quest, free and reduced lunches, etc.). Participants

(more)

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were also asked to bring sturdy containers for the food they were given. Foods that participants received included fresh produce, meats, canned goods and other nonperishables.

Bikowski said, “The joint effort of 60-some volunteers from TNT, SWEPS and the community to execute these mobile food pantries was outstanding. We learn how to improve what we do each time we hold a pantry. I want to thank each and every volunteer who helped us with these events and others in the community such as Cops who let us borrow some of their grocery carts to expeditiously assemble the food allotment for each household. We do this because we know the need is there and we care. We sincerely appreciate the generous support from the community.”

Karlene Dillingham, food pantry coordinator at SWEPS commented, “Even in light of having these two mobile pantries come to Wood County, SWEPS did not see a decrease in the number of families served at our pantry for the months of April and May, further testament to the need for food in our area.”

Interested parties can be notified of future pantries and related events by liking [The Neighborhood Table's Facebook page](#) or visiting www.theneighborhoodtable.org. More general information about mobile food pantries may be found at [Feeding America's Mobile Food Pantry program](#).

About The Neighborhood Table

The Neighborhood Table (TNT) is a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable organization with the mission to reduce hunger, improve the quality of life and create an awareness of the needs that exist in the Wisconsin Rapids community and surrounding area. The organization was formed in late 2003 and has grown to serving approximately 20,000 meals annually on 75 meal dates. TNT meals are served every Thursday and the last two Tuesdays of each month. Over 110 different groups, businesses and clubs in the area sponsor TNT meals.

The Neighborhood Table is staffed by volunteers who carry out the meal/soup kitchen program by offering a free meal to anyone in need. Meals are served from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church of Wisconsin Rapids, 441 Garfield Street, Wisconsin Rapids. Take-out meals are available on Thursdays only by calling 715-422-1980. The Neighborhood Table is governed by its Board of Directors. The program serves the communities of Wisconsin Rapids, Nekoosa, Port Edwards and surrounding areas in central Wisconsin. To learn more about TNT, available volunteer opportunities, or to make a donation, please visit www.theneighborhoodtable.org.

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