



For Immediate Release

April 25, 2017



Mobile food pantry to come to Wisconsin Rapids May 17th

WISCONSIN RAPIDS, Wis. – The Neighborhood Table, a free community meal program, and the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf (SWEPS) have again partnered with Feeding America of Eastern Wisconsin to bring another mobile food pantry to Wisconsin Rapids. The three organizations are also pleased to announce that Aspirus Riverview Foundation has joined the collaborative effort by providing funding for this mobile pantry as well as others to be held during the year. The first mobile food pantry will be held Wednesday, May 17th, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the south parking lot of the United Methodist Church, 441 Garfield Street, Wisconsin Rapids.

In making the joint announcement, Dale Bikowski of TNT said, “Both Terri Rapp, chairperson of SWEPS, and I are proud that Aspirus Riverview Foundation stepped up to the plate to provide the funding to continue the much needed mobile pantries for our community in 2017, especially in light of the direct linkage between hunger and health issues. On average, each mobile pantry serves about 400 households with about 50 lbs. of food, reaching about 1,200 people in total. We will announce the additional dates for the mobile pantries as we work out the details.”

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This mobile food pantry will be handled in the same manner as the pantries held last year. Participants are to:

- Preregister by selecting an available time slot at <http://www.theneighborhoodtable.org> or call 715-422-2050 weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am to 11:30 am.
- Show proof of south Wood County residency via a current driver's license or recent utility bill.
- Qualify for any of the various food assistance programs such as SNAP/Food Share/Quest, free and reduced lunches, WIC, etc.
- Participants are asked to bring sturdy containers for the food they will be given.
- On day of event, participants should come to the pantry **no earlier** than their confirmed time slot. This is to avoid traffic congestion that has occurred in the past.
- Those who come to the pantry without being preregistered will be turned away and asked to come back after 4 pm to get food if it is still available.

Details of this and future mobile food pantries will be promoted on [The Neighborhood Table's Facebook page](#), www.theneighborhoodtable.org as well as the Facebook page of [SWEPS of Wisconsin Rapids](#) and www.swepsantry.org

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 about 75 meal dates. TNT meals are served every Thursday and the last two Tuesdays of each month. More than 115 different groups, businesses and clubs in the area sponsor TNT meals. Core volunteers of The Neighborhood Table carry out the meal/soup kitchen program by offering a free meal to anyone in need. Meals are served from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm 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 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.

About the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf

The South Wood Emergency Pantry Shelf began in 1975 as a nonprofit organization to provide food to area residents in emergency situations. It has been generously supported by members of the community and the First Congregational Church, 311 – 2nd Street South, Wisconsin Rapids. The organization grew to serving approximately 4,000 people annually with volunteers provided by local churches. In the fall of 2015, the SWEPS board approved the reorganization and move of SWEPS in order to better meet the need for food in the South Wood County area. Effective November 16, 2015, SWEPS became known as the South Wood Emerging Pantry Shelf and now operates at 331 – 12th Avenue South, Wisconsin Rapids. Routine days and times of operation are: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 12 noon to 4:00 pm, and Tuesdays from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Those interested in volunteering for SWEPS should send a request to swepsfoodpantry@solarus.net. Updates about SWEPS can be found on its [Facebook page](#) or at www.swepsantry.org.

(more)

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

We share not only a meal, but also an atmosphere of hospitality and mutual respect.

About Aspirus Riverview Foundation

Aspirus Riverview Foundation, Inc. is the charitable and fundraising arm of Aspirus Riverview Hospital. It was established in 1984 for the purpose of seeking and holding funds to support Aspirus Riverview Hospital and other nonprofit health care and social service organizations serving South Wood County.

Aspirus Riverview Foundation's purpose is: "To promote, receive, hold, and invest contributions, gifts, bequests of any type of property from the general public or from other corporations and to disburse, loan, or donate such contributions, gifts, bequests, or the income thereon to Aspirus Riverview Hospital, Inc. a Wisconsin nonstock, nonprofit corporation, and such other nonprofit, tax-exempt health care and social service organizations serving Wood County as the Board of Directors of the Foundation elects to support. The mission of the Aspirus Riverview Foundation is to enhance the health and wellness of the communities it serves.

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