



# Rhineland Area Food Pantry

## Volunteer Connection

February 2013

### Guy's Corner

Guy Hansen      RAFP Executive Director

### Rhineland Area Food Pantry 2012 Year End Report

Again in 2012, the Rhineland Area Food Pantry was able to feed hungry people in our area because of the generous support from the Rhineland Community and the surrounding area. We greatly appreciate any support and are particularly thankful to those who responded to our annual fund-raising letter and to the many year-end food/fund drives or fund matching challenges sponsored by local businesses and industries.

Because of the generosity of individuals, groups and businesses, and the hard work of our dedicated volunteers, we were able to provide an average of 60 pounds of food per household visit last year, enough for 4-7 days. We were also able to provide our customers with hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables from The Community Garden as well as Weekend Food for Kids backpacks to all elementary students who were interested and eligible and still meet all our expenses.

During 2012 we:

- Distributed 454,271 pounds of food (37,856 pounds/month or 8,736 pounds/week) to area households in need at an average cost of \$.40/lb of food distributed or a total operational cost of \$176,562.
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- Provided an additional 15,480 pounds of food directly to children through the Weekend Food for Kids backpack program at a cost of \$14,709 or about \$1./lb of backpack food.
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- Served a monthly average of over 412 households resulting in an average of 628 household visits to *The Pantry* each month. Our customers were 30% children, 57% age 18-64 and 13% seniors.
- Continued to be housed, rent free, within the Nativity of Our Lord Thrift Shop at 436 N. Brown Street.

***A donation of \$120 or \$10/month provides enough food to feed a family of 4 for about a month or provides enough food for one student for one school year in the Weekend Food for Kids program.***

### Helen Swanson Recognized

The Rhineland Area Food Pantry recently recognized Helen Swanson for her volunteer efforts. Helen has been sending out about 900 RAFP thank you letters each year, many including a hand written note. Quite often she has to do some detective work to find correct addresses before they can be placed in the mail. She also volunteers at the pantry filling home delivery baskets, working the senior day pick-up, organizing the ladies knitting group that makes hats and other items, and fills in at the last minute whenever there is a need. Guy Hanson, Executive Director stated that the Food Pantry has been blessed with many dedicated volunteers, and Helen is certainly one of the very best.



**Rhineland High School Future Business Leaders of America**

**White Out/Bright Out Fundraiser**

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) hosted a fundraiser for the Rhineland Area Food Pantry with monetary donations and non-perishable food items at the door entry for admittance to the "White Out" basketball game played at the RHS boys basketball team. Along with the White Out, they also hosted a "Bright Out" game at another game that was also a fundraiser supporting the RAFP with a Miracle Minute donation. Members of FBLA collected and delivered the 781 pounds of food to The Pantry along with \$843 in monetary donations. Mr. Aaron Panke is the Business and Information Technology Teacher and FBLA Adviser. Pictured with Jane Motowski, Pantry Manager is: BethAnn Zenk, Pres.(left) and Chloe Shepard, V.P.(right).



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**Thoms Family and Friends**

Judy and Bob Thoms hosted their 10th Annual Christmas party fundraiser and donated the proceeds to the Rhineland Area Food Pantry. They are pictured here presenting over \$3,100 and 250 pounds of food to Jane Motowski, RAFP Manager. The generosity expressed by the Thoms family and their friends is very much appreciated and will definitely help the Food Pantry with its mission of assisting area families in need.



**Zion Lutheran School**

Never underestimate the potential of 80 determined grade school students. The students at Zion Lutheran School, as part of Kid's for Christ community service organization, were challenged to raise one ton - 2,000 pounds - of food for the Rhineland Area Food Pantry. This may have seemed like a daunting task to accomplish in only two weeks, but they proved more than up to the challenge. When all the food was weighted, the total approached 3,000 pounds. On Monday, November 19, the students marched down Brown Street from their school to deliver their collection to the food pantry. What they couldn't carry was brought over in a trailer. As an added incentive, Principal Tim Ristow agreed to have his beard shaved off and teacher Paul Mildebrandt agreed to have his head shaved. RAFP is extremely grateful and proud of these students for what they accomplished.



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**Thunder Lake Marsh**

Donations to the Rhineland Area Food Pantry come in all sizes, shapes and colors. Thunder Lake Marsh donated 86 pounds of fresh cranberries for the Thanksgiving holiday. This was a nice compliment to the turkeys donated by Zion School children and distributed prior to Thanksgiving.



**Associated Bank - Rhinelander**

While it began during National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week, Associated Bank - Rhinelander location collected food for the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry throughout the Holiday season. Pictured (left to right) are RAFFP Treasure Ginger Chrobak, Associated Bank Senior Teller Jennie Jaskie and Associated Bank Teller Jamie Gray checking out the collection box and some of the donated items.



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**Russ Fisher, President of the Oneida County Tavern League**

Presented \$610 and 46 pounds of food to Jane Motowski, Rhinelander Area Food Pantry Manager. The donation was collected at the TL annual Christmas party.



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**Wisconsin DOT North Central Region Rhinelander**

The staff at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's North Central Region Rhinelander office filled thirty Trig's reusable bags with items for the Personal Essentials Pantry and the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. Pictured with the donation are: Dan Stroede (RAFFP), Lisa Seifert (WI DOT) and Barb Oestreicher (PEP).



**Northwoods Hideaway Lodge**

Greta and George Eatherly of Northwoods Hideaway Lodge on Lake George Resort donated 86 pounds of food to the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. It was collected as an entry to a recent cribbage tournament. This is another example of creative ways area businesses and residents use to donate to the Food Pantry for distribution to area families in need



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**American Legion Riders (ALR).**

Presenting a \$250 donation are (Front row, left to right): Ray VonBober, Jane Motowski (RAFFP Manager) and Don Reed. (Back row, left to right) Doug Breit, Eric Brunner (ALR-VP), Robert Sabatke (ALR-President) and Robert Curley Jr.



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**Carol Flees**

Many individuals make donations during the year. Pictured is Carol Flees presenting her annual \$500 Christmas donation.



**Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**

The Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans recently donated \$2,000 to the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to be used towards the purchase of groceries. Last year the Food Pantry distributed over 454,000 pounds of food and they are very appreciative of donations like this to help offset the cost of purchasing food to meet this demand.

Pictured here are Pastor Norm Peterson of Immanuel Lutheran and Michael Cornelius of Thrivent Financial presenting the check to Jan Sarkauskus, RAFP Steering Committee member and Garden Co-Coordinator.



**Rhinelander Area Ambassadors**

The Rhinelander Area Ambassadors presented a check for \$300 to the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry for the backpack program. Presenting the check are Sue Vanzo, Secretary of the Ambassadors, Diane Sowinski, Treasurer of the Ambassadors, Jane Motowski Pantry Manager accepting the check, Jackie Popko Backpack volunteer, Linda Krebsbach, President of the Ambassadors and Gail Fitzgerald, Backpack Volunteer.



**Newcomers and Friends**

**First Monday of the Month Distribution Crew**

Left to right: Carl Williams, Carol Burton, Laurie Williams, Gloria Gustafson, Jane Smithback, Carol Campbell, Marlene Erdahl, Wayne Miller, Ginger Chrobak, Ron Geske, Dick Emerick and Ken Chrobak.



**Rhinelander Area Food Pantry  
Volunteers needed:**

- Community Relations Liaison
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Back-up Publicity Chair
- Back-up Financial Secretary
- Back-up Grant Writer
- Back-up Volunteer Coord.

Please see Jane at the pantry (436 North Brown Street)

**Rhineland Area Community Garden**  
**Lots of Spring Projects Planned**  
by Jan Sarkauskas

For the last couple of years the community garden plot on Thayer Street has not looked as neat as it has prior. Since the garden's beginnings in 2006 volunteers have grown around 10,000 lbs of fresh produce for the food pantry. Maintenance has taken second place behind production.



This year we hope to get the beauty restored to the garden! Starting in April construction will begin on new pergola. We have always relied on a portable shelter for shade. We hope to have the new shelter completed before major planting begins in May.

The mulch on our paths and work areas has deteriorated to the point that we are not able to keep it weeded. It needs to be removed and composted and replaced with fresh wood chips. Some of the underlying weed barrier will need to be replaced.

Our garden shed needs a fresh coat of paint and a little sprucing up.

The perennial border needs a lot of attention. We hope to get out all the weeds and grass to present a better-looking garden.

All of these projects will need volunteers. Will you have free time this spring to join us? If so, contact Tom at 715-401-1578 or [tjerow@frontiernet.net](mailto:tjerow@frontiernet.net) or Jan at 715-360-9421 or [jansark@frontiernet.net](mailto:jansark@frontiernet.net).

### **Food for the Mind**

I want to thank Jane and all the workers at the Food Pantry for their support for the Food for the Mind project. We have been bringing children's book to the pantry for several years, in fact since its beginning. The pantry has book shelves available for us to put the books and children or their parents have the opportunity to pick out a book each time they visit the pantry.



1215 used books were taken by the families in 2012. There might have been more because sometimes books were put on the shelves that we didn't count. At Easter and Christmas we handed out 356 new books for the children.

The workers at the pantry encourage the children and their families to take books. That is so great because our purpose is to get books in the hands of the children and enhance their interest in reading. With the cooperation of our two groups we hope we are making a difference.

Thank you for helping The Food for the Mind project get books out to children.

Pauline Doucette  
Food for the Mind Coordinator

**THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS**

**T**hank you! Thank you! Thank you! Without you, the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry could not exist. It is truly amazing how hundreds of volunteers work together to make miracles happen. It is a miracle how the trucks are loaded and unloaded; food is weighed and stored, produce is sorted, shelves are stocked and customers are served. Thanks for helping to make the RAFP miracle happen day after day.

Guy Hansen  
RAFP Executive Director

**Annual \$1 Million Giveaway to Fight Hunger  
Donations Matched March and April**

For the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide one million dollars among anti-hunger agencies nationwide. The amount received is based on the amount received locally in the months of March and April 2013.

The Rhinelander Area Food Pantry challenges local residents to contribute toward requirements for sharing in part of this grant. Only donations or pledges received from March 1<sup>st</sup> to April 30<sup>th</sup> can be counted. These donations may include cash, checks and food items (valued at \$1.00 per item or pound) or pledges, as long as they were obtained as part of this challenge.

One million dollars will be divided proportionately among all participating agencies (a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$40,000).

The Feinstein Foundation is a philanthropic organization started by Alan Shawn Feinstein of Rhode Island. He retired in 1996 from work as a financial writer and advisor, and now puts up the funds every year to challenge local communities to get involved and help their neighbors. Feinstein's past \$1 million challenges to fight hunger have raised a record \$1 Billion for over 2,000 agencies nationwide.

To help the pantry meet this challenge, monetary donations can be made to: Rhinelander Area Food Pantry. C/o Associated Bank, 8 W. Davenport St., Rhinelander, WI 54501. Food items may be dropped off at the Food Pantry at 436 N. Brown St. from 9 AM to Noon, Monday through Thursday.

More information on the Feinstein Foundation at [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org) or by calling 401-467-5155. For more information on the local campaign, contact Rhinelander Area Food Pantry Executive Director Guy Hansen at 715-282-5810.

For more information on helping the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry, call 715-369-7237  
[www.rhinelanderafoodpantry.org](http://www.rhinelanderafoodpantry.org)