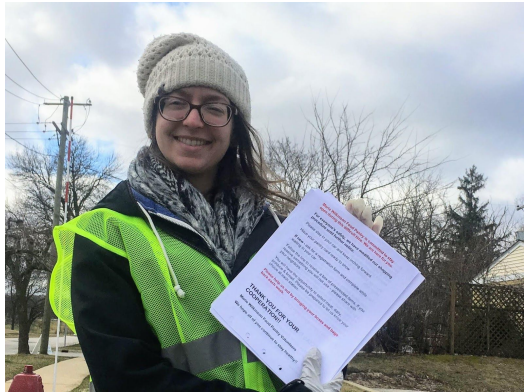


How You Can Be A Good Samaritan Today

COVID-19 has changed the world. This pandemic will go down in history, and we are living in it. During times like this, food pantries become a necessity to many households. On Saturday, March 21, we received one of our heaviest flows of traffic, with over 150 guests, and about a third of them were new to our pantry. During times such as these, how can we continue nourishing lives and relieving hunger?



Picture by Rebekah Axtell

Due to covid-19 both of our pantries have been made 100% drive-thru.

About 80% of all the food we share comes from those who participate in our Food Rescue Program.

Food rescuing is when businesses donate food that would have typically gone to waste such as bread, eggs or milk. After items sit on a shelf for a day, several companies must dispose of them, but why waste food?

The Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry is proud to have a program in which 40 trips to local grocery stores are taken each week to stock up on food so that we can help those who are without it.



Picture by Rebekah Axtell

Thanks to our volunteers we are able to share food for those in need.

Some businesses may not want it, we see value in these items. We are saving valuable nutrition from being wasted.

As Earth Day is slowly coming up, we want to promote saving the world by reducing waste and minimizing the number of toxic emissions, we are doing just that.

In 1997, the United States passed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act to encourage the donation of food and grocery products. Anyone can choose to donate. Some of our donors include: Prisco's Family Market, Save a Lot, Jewel Osco, Aldi and Smallcakes.



Picture by Rebekah Axtell

Guests have a plentiful amount of groceries to choose from.

In 2019, we purchased a new food rescue van in partnership with the Dunham Fund. This allows us to easily pick up groceries - seven times per week. Like a grocery store, we allow guests to freely select what they desire. Three days a week we share food to nourish our neighbors.



Picture by Rebekah Axtell

The van was designed by Joshua Shultz, Rebekah Axtell and Diane Renner.

Thanks to those who participate in this program we are able to assist those in the Aurora community, veterans and their families, students from East Aurora High School and many others.



Picture by Jada Hoffman

Food 4 Students is one of Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry's outreach programs in which they visit East Aurora High School and share free food with all students.

We are grateful for our volunteers and donors and we are blessed to be able to serve our community. Volunteer and donate today by visiting our website:

<http://mariewilkinsonfoodpantry.org/> Hope to see you soon!