

The Can Can



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Current Pantry Needs

- Pancake Mix
- Jelly
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Canned Tomatoes
- Toilet Paper
- Deodorant
- Women's Pads/Tampons
- Denture Cream

Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank Celebrates Christmas in February

Last fall, Pat Murray, chair of the Mission Committee at Trinity United Methodist Church asked for suggestions for the annual Advent project. A Salina Food Bank volunteer who also serves on the Mission Committee, mentioned the need for freezer replacement in the Food Bank's pantry where food is distributed on a daily basis. The church, which averages 400 members each Sunday, gave 10% of the weekly offerings during the four weeks of Advent plus direct donations for the freezer project. Over \$17,500 was raised for two commercial freezers.

Senior Pastor, Barry Dundas, says the church helps locally as well as internationally. "We have built a house in Salina for Habitat for Humanity and helped with clean water projects in Haiti and Africa. We are a very mission minded church, looking for ways to make a difference. The freezers will make a difference to the Food Bank, their volunteers and those that depend on the food that is distributed every day."

The Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank is a non-profit agency receiving no federal or state government assistance. The Food Bank relies on food and monetary donations. Located at 255 S Chicago, food is distributed to low-income individuals and families, which can include seniors, veterans, and others who qualify through individual interviews.



Before-old residential style freezers



After installation—new commercial self defrosting pantry freezers



Staff Story by Kathy Jackson

For our first newsletter of 2017, I wanted to share something that happened to me that helped me realize I may direct the efforts of the Salina Emergency/Aid Food Bank but God is the one in charge.

A few weeks ago, I left a very difficult meeting unsure of how we were going to be able to do the job we were being asked to do. It was the Christmas season and we were already trying to operate with a short staff. Now this had been added to our already overwhelming work load.

Arriving back at the Food Bank after the meeting, I was told that we needed to purchase a bus ticket for a person. The bus line no longer accepted checks, only credit card or cash. I was glad for the diversion and headed out the door to purchase the ticket. I arrived at the bus station on the other side of I-70 only to find out the bus was full—no tickets available.

Turning my car back towards the Food Bank and my thoughts back to the earlier meeting, a light came on the dash of the car indicating that I needed gas. I pulled into the 24/7 to get gas, thankful for another distraction.

I got the cash out for the gas purchase and went inside to pay for the gas. I did what I always do (or so I thought)---I put the receipt and my keys in the car and proceeded to lock the car before adding the needed gas. Then, I walked around the car to open the door. Yep, the door was locked and my keys lay on the seat! I went back inside the store and called my husband. Luckily he was out running errands and would swing by and unlock the door.



While waiting on him, I had time to watch the clouds rolling in before the upcoming storm. I also spent time praying God would quiet my spirit and give me the wisdom to handle

these new issues. I asked Him to show me that the work of the Food Bank really mattered.

When I got back to the Food Bank, a young man stopped me and thanked me for helping him and his friends. Recognizing the young man, I reminded him that I had not been

able to help him. He said, "You're wrong. You took time to listen and you tried to help. You showed me a kindness when no one else did."

He told me he was working, he was no longer homeless and he had some change in his pocket. I praise God for helping me realize that what we do at the Food Bank really does matter. Especially on a day like this one!!

Volunteer Trivia

How many people volunteer at the Food Bank each week?

Volunteers work a variety of jobs at the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank every day including

- Distributing food Monday through Friday from the food pantry
- Repackaging bulk food into family size containers
- Stocking and restocking shelves in the pantry and warehouse
- Helping with a variety of office work
- Picking up donated food from local grocers

Answer to trivia question: each week 66 people volunteer at the Food Bank.

Food Bank Facts

Over 16,000 people were helped in 2016 with food, rent evictions, utility disconnects, medicines and representative payees.

Over 336,000 food items were distributed to those in need.

Upcoming Events

Project Salina - May 2017

Plan to attend the "kickoff" breakfast or luncheon on April 20th at Sunrise Presbyterian Church. Find out what the Project is all about!



Stamp Out Hunger National Association of Letter Carriers

The 25th annual food drive event will be May 13th.

