



2012 March Food Drive

From Survive to Thrive: Food Shelf Facts

Every year, people across the state join forces with Minnesota FoodShare in a concerted effort to stock food shelves during **March Food Drive**, a month-long campaign with year-long benefits for food shelves and hungry families in Minnesota. **Hunger in our state has more than doubled in the last five years, and food shelves have seen a dramatic increase in need for emergency food services; demand more than doubled between 2008 and 2010.** Neighborhood House is home to the largest single-site food shelf in Ramsey County, and we have seen this increased need with our own eyes. Everyone can do something to help, and we invite you to make a difference this March. **Your gift to our food shelf means local families will have direct access to the nutritious foods they need.**



The goal of the Neighborhood House food shelf is to provide food to those seeking assistance, and to connect them with critical community resources that help them move "from survive to thrive." **In order to use the food shelf, participants meet with a case worker who connects them to a network of**



resources which help them address the challenges they face - financial assistance needs, language barriers, child-care and education. Our food shelf works as one part of a holistic system of vital services, to make a significant impact in people's lives and give them comprehensive tools to become self-sufficient, active community members.

Our goal is to raise 120,000 pounds of food and dollars during the month of March (one pound is calculated as one dollar to reach our total). This will go a long way toward feeding hungry families.

About the Neighborhood House food shelf:

- The Neighborhood House food shelf served 36,426 individuals last year. One-half of those we serve are children.
- In 2011, the food shelf distributed 554,123 lbs of food. On average, we give 49,624 pounds of food to 700 families each month.
- 97% of those who receive assistance from the food shelf live below the poverty level; according to the Department of Health and Human services this includes a family of four earning \$22,050 or less annually.
- 40% of Neighborhood House participants are immigrants or refugees who have arrived in the United States in the last four years.
- The Neighborhood House food shelf was named a Blue Ribbon Food Shelf by Hunger Solutions of Minnesota, recognizing exceptional quality and service.



Become a Hunger Hero Today. Donors are critical to the success of Neighborhood House participants and programs. We call the group of donors/partners who support the food shelf “Hunger Heroes” - members of this group feel great knowing that their donations significantly impact the fight against hunger.



- **Just \$5.** Monetary donations are a great way to support the March Food Drive. We know how to stretch a dollar and every dollar makes a difference. Did you know that \$5 could mean two meals for a family of three, \$25 can buy over 500 servings of rice, and \$50 could be lunch and dinner for a family of four for a week? Please return the enclosed envelope or visit us online at www.neighb.org to join the team and show your support today.
- **Feed a family.** It's easy to start your own food drive at home, using your own pantry. Ask your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers to do the same. Bring the bags of food to the food shelf to be weighed. Every pound gets us closer to our goal!
- **Follow your food, feed your heart** - make your March Food Drive a complete experience. Where does the food from your food drive go? Here's your chance to find out—follow your food all the way from donation to distribution! Neighborhood House invites you to pair your food drive with a volunteer experience this year. We can help you with your food drive by providing collection barrels, marketing materials, speakers and creative ideas to raise food/funds. After your food drive is

complete, bring your donations to Neighborhood House and stay for an hour or two to volunteer in our food shelf. You and a group of coworkers or friends will place the food you have raised on our shelves, and then put it directly into the hands of the families who need it most. Contact Riley Karbon at 651.789.3626 or rkarbon@neighb.org to get involved.