

Pantry Pulse

ACCESS news you can use

Winter 2010

Welcoming in 2010

While taking a look back at 2009

***The Food Pantry Network provided **91,134** food services to **19,505** households. Food services increased by **7%** from 2008.

***DHS reported a **20%** increase in food assistance cases and as a result of ACCESS Food Stamp Outreach an average of **24.8** food stamp benefits cases were approved monthly.

*** United Way 211 reported that only **1%** of food calls were unmet, indicating that we achieved **99%** of our goal.

Goals for 2010

Consistency: ACCESS wants to make pantry services as user-friendly as possible for all - especially those who have never utilized the pantry system before.

Improving the Network: ACCESS wants to facilitate better communication in the pantry system, reducing duplication and learning from everyone in the network.

Job Leads from Goodwill's Career Center

Every week Goodwill sends ACCESS a list of job leads that we then send out to pantries to hang on bulletin boards and distribute to clients. The Salvation Army has reported that at least three of their pantry clients have gotten jobs by using the job lead list! If you would like to be added as a weekly recipient or to learn more about Goodwill's free computer classes and job training opportunities, please email

Emma@accessofwestmichigan.org

Upcoming ACCESS Events

"Understanding Poverty"	February 23
OSM Workshop at First UMC	7-8:30pm
Poverty Simulation	March 8
At GRCC	6:30pm
Open House for Nancy (retiring)	March 18
At the ACCESS Office	3-5pm
1st ACCESS Annual Gala	April 22
At Thousand Oaks	6:30pm

From MSU Extension office

January Lunch and Learn materials posted at www.kentnutrition.weebly.com. If you missed the presentation, you can view it on YouTube @ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqXJNuBeAmM>
February's topic will be "Feeding the Masses: Food Safety for Food Pantries and Those Feeding Groups". Find more resources for Surviving a Tough Economy on their website.

THAW! ACSET (Sheldon, Northeast, Westside and Cedar Rock Complexes) currently has funding for gas assistance through the THAW program. If you are aware of families in need of gas assistance, please have them contact the complex in their area to make an appointment to apply for assistance.

Free tax help Call UW 211 or 459-2255 for sites where you can get help and info on Earned Income Credit, Child Tax Credit, Homestead Property Tax Credit, Heating Tax Credit and more! Go to "Money Back in Michigan" at www.milhs.org for more info.

Partners for a Racism Free Community

Annual Forum will be Friday March 26 8-11 at Kentwood Community Church. Victor Lewis will present "Lessons Learned from the Color of Fear". Register at www.prfc-gr.org

Prosperity: "The ability of all community members to have access to basic needs, community abundance, opportunity, positive development and hope."
From Community Action House Holland MI



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