



# THE PANTRY PARTNER

*Baldwin Community Food Pantry*

*January 2015*

## WHY A FOOD PANTRY IN BALDWIN CITY?

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) offers nutrition assistance to millions of eligible, low-income individuals and families and provides economic benefits to communities. SNAP is the largest program in the domestic hunger safety net. The Food and Nutrition Service works with State agencies, nutrition educators, and neighborhood and faith-based organizations to ensure that those eligible for nutrition assistance can make informed decisions about applying for the program and can access benefits. FNS also works with State partners and the retail community to improve program administration and ensure program integrity.

In 2013 benefits totaled \$75 billion, but payments to most households dropped; the average monthly benefit was \$133.07 a person, less than \$1.50 a meal. SNAP recipients typically run through their monthly allotment in three weeks, then turn to food pantries. Who qualifies for SNAP? Households with gross incomes no more than 130 percent of the poverty rate. For a family of four that qualifying point is \$31,005 a year. A full time minimum wage earner in that family of four can earn up to \$15,080 per year. A household of four with two full time minimum wage earners will still be eligible for SNAP benefits.

In the United States more than half of hungry households are white, and two-thirds of those with children have at least one working adult—typically in a full-time job. With this new image comes a new lexicon: In 2006 the U.S. government replaced “hunger” with the term “food insecure” to describe any household where, sometime during the previous year, people didn’t have enough food to eat. By whatever name, the number of people going hungry has grown dramatically in the U.S., increasing to 48 million by 2012—a fivefold jump since the late 1960s, including an increase of 57 percent since the late 1990s. Privately run programs like food pantries and soup kitchens have mushroomed too. In 1980 there were a few hundred emergency food programs across

the country; today there are 50,000. Finding food has become a central worry for millions of Americans. One in six reports running out of food at least once during the year. In many European countries, by contrast, the number is closer to one in 20.

Because hunger is found everywhere, including Baldwin City, the Baldwin Community Food Pantry was formed to help feed its hungry residents. In the past 10 years the need in Baldwin has grown tremendously and Baldwin City has responded to the need. The Pantry is open for distribution each Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

## MEET THE PARTNERS

It takes our whole community to provide food assistance in Baldwin City. There are many churches, service organizations, and individuals that make up that community of partners. Each month *The Pantry Partner* newsletter will profile one of the many partners that contribute food and service to the Baldwin Community Food Pantry. These partners provide support in many ways; food drives, stocking shelves, and providing volunteers along with food and cash donations.

### **BALDWIN FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

The Baldwin First United Methodist Church has housed the Food Pantry since the 1990s. In addition to housing the Food Pantry, members of the BFUMC Mission Team provide administrative functions for the Food Pantry, including handling cash donations,



assessing pantry needs, and purchasing additional food and supplies. The Mission Team members open the doors every Saturday morning and host our partner volunteers. BFUMC also provides volunteers and has regular food drives to support the Pantry.

Next Month: Annunciation Catholic Church

**LOCATION:** Baldwin First United Methodist Church, 704 8<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 25, Baldwin City, KS 66006

**HOURS:** Open every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

**CONTACT:** BFUMC Office (785) 594-6612

# A LOOK AT WHAT BALDWIN CITY DID IN 2014

On average, the Food Pantry provided food to 42 families averaging 135 pantry guests per week. Of these, over 40% were children. Use of the Food Pantry grew by an average of 7 new families per month. November saw the largest demand for assistance.

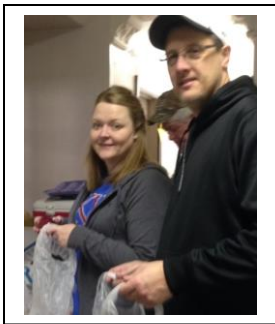
## TOP 5 NEEDS FOR FEBRUARY

- Chunky Style Soups
- Canned Fruit, all types
- Spaghetti sauce
- Canned meats (tuna, chicken)
- Pasta meals

In addition to these there are some products that are always in demand. Annunciation Catholic Church keeps the cereal shelf full, Worden UMC provides peanut butter and jelly on an ongoing basis and Ives Chapel UMC helps with toilet paper. The on-going donations are greatly appreciated.

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteers are critical to the success of the program. No experience is required, just a smile and a desire to help. Each month *The Pantry Partner* will profile a volunteer who steps up and assists with collection, administration, and distribution.



**Brad and Amy Carlson** of Worden United Methodist Church have volunteered at the Pantry for more than 3 years. They stock shelves, check in patrons, deliver weekly donations from Worden UMC and help stock on Thursday nights. Amy says, "It is rewarding to serve and give back to the community. The

work of the Pantry is important!" Here they are filling bags with apples and distributing bread.

Volunteers can sign up at the Pantry's SignUpGenius [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0549AEAA2AA1F85-food1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C0549AEAA2AA1F85-food1) web site by selecting the dates they would like to assist. Volunteers arrive at 8:30 to help with setup and do any last minute stocking.

## DONOR TIP OF THE MONTH

Nonperishable items can be brought to the pantry on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm -8:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Just bring them to the parking lot entrance of the Baldwin First United

Methodist Church. Monetary donations can be sent or delivered to the Baldwin Community Food Pantry c/o Baldwin First United Methodist Church, 704 8<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 25, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006.

## PANTRY POLICIES

There is only one requirement to be a patron of the food pantry and that is evidence that the patron resides within the USD 348 Baldwin City school district. There are no questionnaires, no income conditions and the pantry is free to all. There are also no restrictions on how often one can use the pantry each month.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **PANTRY WORK DAY AND A MOVIE**

January 19 · 9:00 am -12:00  
Baldwin First United Methodist Church

The Baldwin First United Methodist Mission Team will be hosting a service/work opportunity at the Baldwin Community Food Pantry on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 19. We will be cleaning and reorganizing the food pantry room and storage area, and putting up additional shelving from 9 am to 11 am.

At 11 am we will be showing **THE LINE**, a movie about poverty in America. The film is less than an hour. We will follow with a simple meal and have some discussion/reflections about the movie. This is open to anyone interested. Children are welcome and will be participating in the food preparation and other activities. Come for any part of the morning or the whole morning. We look forward to a great day of service and reflection!

As we look to food preparation and work activities for the day, if you know you or others will be participating, please e-mail Laura Dickinson at [ldinbc@gmail.com](mailto:ldinbc@gmail.com) so we have a general head-count for the day. We know it will be a close approximation, so if folks change their mind at the last minute to either attend or not, it will be fine.

### **WORDEN UNITED METHODIST YOUTH "SOUPER BOWL" FOOD DRIVE**

The Worden UMC Youth will be hosting a "Souper Bowl" food drive where fans of the two Super Bowl teams are pitted against each other. The congregation will vote for the winner of the Souper Bowl by bringing food for the team they want to win. The winner will be determined by the amount of food donated for each team by February 1. Worden UMC's Shepherd Groups will also be having a soup cook-off the week after the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 8 at noon after services. All are invited. The cost is a good will offering of canned items or monetary donations for the Food Pantry.