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The River Food Pantry, Inc 2006 Annual Report

Mission: To bring a message of mercy and hope to those in need by providing nutritional basics and encouragement; to be a unifying, servant hearted and community building expression of Jesus Christ in Madison.

The River Food Pantry 2006 Annual Report

The River Food Pantry had a memorable year in 2006. The pantry opened to the public on March 31 and experienced rapid growth. Please see the statistics at the end of this document. In addition to the pantry, we serve a community dinner on Friday nights and distribute clothing and household items freely. We are becoming a significant resource for the north side of Madison and for all of Dane County.

Pantry:

As of August, The River Food Pantry is hosting the First United Methodist Pantry. Both pantries used the same space and food inventory. It is a privilege to be able to provide a home to the FUMC Pantry. The cooperative effort will continue until the new facilities for the First United Methodist Pantry are completed, sometime in 2007.

Pantry usage was at an average of 120 households per week by the end of the year.

Our volunteer base has increased steadily over the course of the year. We need 30 – 40 volunteers on any given Friday night. A huge encouragement to us is the number of volunteers who are also clients of the pantry. Approximately 25% of our volunteers also use the pantry for their own families. It is a practice we strongly encourage. Together we have built a community that is united in service. Our volunteers come from different churches, educational institutions and also from the community. We all work together for the purpose accomplishing our mission.

We estimate that we are distributing about 4800 pounds of food weekly.

The pantry has logged in excess of 5000 volunteer hours for 2006. That number is in addition to three months of construction hours.

Construction:

The pantry facilities are located in a warehouse. The various structures we use all had to be built. Much of the building process used recycled materials. For example, the serving counters in the kitchen were nurses' station desks in the old Meriter Hospital in downtown Madison. All of our doors, windows and cupboards also came from there. The construction efforts encompassed 3500 volunteer hours. Many skilled workers spent many hours donating their labor in areas such as the heating, plumbing and, most of all the new 400 amp electric service.

Friday Dinner:

Our Friday dinners have become a popular item. Most of the families that come to the pantry on Friday also stay for dinner. Additionally, a number of people come just to eat and socialize. We typically serve between 175 – 250 dinners. We work hard to provide tasty and nutritious meals.

The pantry continues to receive free flower bouquets each Friday for our tables. At the end of the dinner, the bouquets are made available for anyone to take home. This has been a really popular service.

Other Relationships:

The River Food Pantry has a thriving relationship with Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin. That organization sends weekly teams of youth to help clean and stock the pantry. In return, the pantry provides the youths with dinner.

We have built strong relationships with Second Harvest and Community Action Coalition, our two food banks. Without them our finances would not have been sufficient. We continue to rely on them weekly and truly appreciate what they have done for us.

Fundraising:

The pantry is operating a concession stand at the University of Wisconsin football and men's basketball games. This provides us with much needed additional income.

Our two largest contributors this year were the Housing Ministries of American Baptists in Wisconsin and Mad City Church. We also received funds from EPIC Systems in Verona. A grant was received from Sam's Club.

Managing Directors:

We have no paid staff. Our staff consists of the three directors-founders, Tom Thuemling, Jenny Czerkas and Andy Czerkas. All of them work on a volunteer basis.

Advisory Directors:

Bridget Bradley, Jed Dufek, Shane Holden, Mark Jungbluth, Martee Mikalson, Rick & Carol Miles, Steve Sachtjen, Kenton Sorenson. All of them work on a volunteer basis.

2006 Monetary Donations

Businesses & Organizations

Associated Bank
Epic Systems
General Casualty Ins.
Hooper Foundation
Housing Ministries of American
Baptists in Wisconsin
Mad City Church
Mortgage 2000
Northside Business Association
Sam's Club
Shah Electronics

Individuals

Alan & Shawn Marie Andrews
Sherry Baker-Tidstrom
Ritchie Baumann
Lynn Belleau
Michael & Kathleen Bingham
Jim & Char Bradley
Cheryl Bradley & Jon Lombard
Andy & Jenny Czerkas
Lonney Davies
Ruchi Dutta
Darrell & Diane Endres
James & Peggy Govier
Donna Grossman
James & Bernice Grota
Jeff Havey
Bonita Heck
Shane & Vicky Holden
Jim & Karen Jaeger
Karen Johnson
Mark & Helen Jones
Tom & Page Krause
Len Lindsay
Margaret Lindsay
Doris A. Marten
Mark A. Quinn
Karen Raymond
Steve & Shari Sachtjen
Todd & Kara Schwartz
Susan Scott
Lana Scott
Deb & Bruce Stala
Joseph & Kelly Taylor
Tom & Teresa Thuemling
Cynthia Walton-Jackson

Tom & Barb Wiedenbeck
G. Adam Wigdahl
Karl & Darlene Williams
And Many Anonymous Donors

2006 In-Kind Donations

Businesses & Organizations

Acacia Rugs
Cub Foods East
Jeff Havey Plumbing
Pellitteri Waste Systems
Solid State Construction

Individuals

Bridget Bradley
Andy & Jenny Czerkas
Jed Dufek
Shane Holden
Mark Jungbluth
Martee Mikalson
Rick & Carol Miles
Steve & Shari Sachtjen
Kenton Sorenson
Tom Thuemling
Kelli Ward

**Statement of Financial Position
Year Ended December 31, 2006**

ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 52,073
Prepaid Expenses	2,712
Property and Equipment - net	<u>174,023</u>
Total Assets	\$ <u>228,808</u>
LIABILITIES	
	\$ -
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	<u>228,808</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ <u>228,808</u>

A copy of the annual audit in its entirety is available upon request.