

IN YOUR BACKYARD



THE ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK SERVES MORE THAN 500 MEMBER AGENCIES IN 26 COUNTIES IN MISSOURI AND ILLINOIS. IN FACT, ONE OF OUR MEMBER AGENCIES PROBABLY IS SERVING PEOPLE RIGHT IN YOUR OWN 'BACKYARD.'

A FOOD FAIR IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MO

This year, Halloween brought with it more than just the usual “tricks or treats” to Montgomery County, MO. On October 31, the St. Louis Area Foodbank and member agency We Care Ministries hosted a Food Fair in Montgomery City, bringing three truckloads of items including fresh carrots, potatoes, oranges, grapefruit, apples and a variety of shelf-stable, boxed food items totaling more than 39,000 pounds to an area hit hard by layoffs, factory closings, and the high price of utilities and gas.

We Care Ministries, founded in 2001, has served Montgomery County for the past seven years. Located at 120 W 2nd Street in Montgomery City, the agency helps meet the needs of the homeless, seniors, low-income families, children and people with disabilities throughout Montgomery County. They help 150-160 families each month; 40 percent of those they serve are seniors.

We Care Ministries provides tangible things such as emergency food, clothing, cleaning supplies, hygiene products, school supplies, fans during the summer, coats for the winter, and baby supplies for expectant mothers. It also includes



much-needed services, such as finding shelter for the homeless, helping to find jobs for the unemployed, delivery to seniors who are homebound, and many other referral services. We Care Ministries is a resource anytime people in Montgomery County find themselves in crisis. The agency also welcomes seniors, the handicapped and anyone else who wants or needs to do community service.

We Care Ministries typically obtains canned goods, dry goods, drinks, meat, cleaning supplies, cereals, potatoes, carrots, onions, and dry milk from the St. Louis Area Foodbank. “Without these food products, we could not feed these families,” noted Director Patricia Laramore.

“The Oct. 31 food fair is the first one we’ve hosted, and we believe it was a tremendous help and blessing to our community for families in need,” said Laramore. “We would like to thank all the donors that support the St. Louis Area Foodbank to ensure it’s there to help communities like ours. Your support allows We Care Ministries to help families in need – without all of you, we could not exist.”

BOEING COMPANY’S “AmeriCAN” FOOD DRIVE HELPS FEED LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED

This past summer, Boeing employees contributed more than 15,000 pounds of food during the company’s annual “AmeriCAN” food drive.

The event came at a much-needed time as Foodbank member agencies struggle to meet the increase in

requests for food assistance that typically come during the summer months. “The largest segment of the population we serve are children, and the majority of them rely on the federal school breakfast and lunch programs throughout the school year,” stated Frank

Finnegan, St. Louis Area Foodbank Executive Director. “With school on summer break, our partner agencies notice an increase in requests for assistance each summer,” Finnegan concluded.

In addition to provid-

ing additional food for those in need, food drives collect product not typically donated by the food industry. Items such as beef stew, canned fruits & vegetables, soups, and peanut butter are standard food drive donations and help hunger-relief organizations maintain a proper mix

of shelf-stable items for families in need.

For information on how your company can sponsor a food and/or fund drive for the Foodbank, please contact Lenora Young at 314.292.5395 or via e-mail at lyoung@stlfoodbank.org.