

Food Pantry Group Interviews

Background and Methodology

In the spring of 2010 interviews were conducted with six food pantry managers and one food pantry distribution coordinator. Additionally, a focus group discussion took place with four of the food pantry managers. The purpose of these discussions was to identify the current use and needs of the county food pantries, and to determine how Waushara Food Connections might assist the local pantries in our mission of “Making nutritious food available and accessible to all county residents.”

Six food pantry managers were interviewed in April of 2010. Representatives from the Waushara Commodity Food Pantry in Wautoma and the Saxeville Community Church Food Pantry in Saxeville were interviewed over the telephone. The other four food pantry managers (from the New Life Assembly of God Food Pantry in Plainfield; from Ruby’s Pantry, hosted by Crossroads Church, in Wautoma; from the First Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Poy Sippi; and from the First Congregational United Church of Christ Food Pantry in Redgranite) filled out a written questionnaire and answered follow-up questions over the telephone. The only other known food pantry in the county, hosted by the First Baptist Church in Plainfield, did not want to participate in a formal interview. Some basic information about their operations, however, was collected and has been included in this report.

In addition to these interviews, several in-depth telephone conversations occurred with the Central and Northeast Wisconsin Distribution Coordinator of Ruby’s Pantry. Also, a focus group discussion took place with representatives from the Waushara Commodity Food Pantry in Wautoma, the Saxeville Community Church Food Pantry in Saxeville, the First Lutheran Food Pantry in Poy Sippi and the First Congregational United Church of Christ Food Pantry in Redgranite. Though interested, a representative from the New Life Assembly of God Food Pantry in Plainfield was not able to attend this meeting.