

Waushara County Food Connections

November 16, 2010

Feedback:

- a. In your opinion, do our findings accurately illustrate Waushara County's food system, food needs and assets? The group felt that the findings were representative of Waushara County.
- b. What is the most important finding? Specifically transportation was mentioned and that there was a real need to give people rides. The group also had a discussion on the use of food stamps. It was felt that people sometimes used the stamps unwisely and purchased soda, junk food, pizza and other convenience foods.

Action Planning Steps:

- a. What community food projects should we plan next?
- b. What resources are needed to carry these projects out?
- c. Who might be local partners?
 1. Spread the word about resources and develop a hot line that people could call into for more information. Hotline could be used by those offering services or products as well as those seeking assistance. Resources – local volunteers.
 2. Increase revenue for food pantries.

Partner with local churches to pass the basket a second time for food pantry donations.

Partner with local service organizations (Lions, Kiwanis), youth organizations (Boy and Girl Scouts, FFA), and schools. Whenever a fundraiser is done, ask that a second container be offered for donations for the food pantry.

Partner with local gas stations by putting a container at the checkout that people could drop donations into for the food pantry.

This could also be expanded to include food pantry product boxes around the county in strategic locations (churches, library, lobby of court house, lobby of community buildings, gas stations, etc.)
 3. Form a coalition of food pantries. Revenues that were collected under (2) could go to the coalition for distribution.
 4. Form a partnership between food pantries and canneries. Money donated to food pantries could be stretched further if product was purchased directly from the canneries (mentioned cannery in Plover).
 5. Develop a community garden in Wild Rose. Partner – the Lions Club may be interested on working on this project. Possibly the village could donate land for the

Appendix H2: Suggested Projects from Preliminary Results Presentation

- garden. Discussed that maybe a farmer would be willing also. However, this may be outside the village and not as accessible.
6. Gleaning food from farmers' fields that would otherwise be lost. Some crops within the county are harvested by machine, while others are harvested by hand. Crops that are harvested by machine usually have more residual crops in the fields that are ultimately plowed under. Produce that was mentioned included cucumbers, peppers, potatoes and squash. Another idea that was mentioned was that possibly farmers could profit by having volunteers collect unwanted produce as an incentive to have farmers allow gleaning. Half the food collected could be sold locally and the revenue given back to the farmer, while the other half would be donated to the local food pantry.
 7. Increase food donations to food pantries. Encourage service organizations to bring items to the food pantry for the holidays instead of exchanging white elephant gifts.

Other thoughts or comments:

- a. How can we determine who needs help? The group felt that there were people in the county who were too proud to ask for assistance.
- b. What do stores put in those sealed grocery bags that people buy for donation? It would be nice if the bags contained a list and that items on the list were healthy.
- c. The Lions Club in Wild Rose is very active in the county and community. They donate \$200 dollars twice a year to both the Saxeville? and Wautoma? food pantries. They are planning a free pancake breakfast for the holidays. Children will be given stockings and 7 decorated Christmas trees will be given to needy families.
- d. The Lions Club sent two representatives to our meeting and would be interested in working with the group further.
- e. What kind of food can be donated to the food pantry? If you purchase an extra turkey could you give it to the food pantry?
- f. Concerned about the gift of gas cards/gift cards. The Lions Club gave gas cards in the past which were cashed in for cigarettes and junk food instead of used for gas. The Club now gives gas cards to the local co-op. The co-op will not cash in the cards for anything other than gas. They felt that some restaurants/stores would give money for gift cards this money could be used on items such as alcohol and cigarettes.
- g. Wanted to know where Ruby's Pantry was in Wautoma. Question answered.
- h. The folks from the Lions Club probably heard about the meeting in the newspaper article. He had the article with him with the location and time highlighted.