

“PAPER PLATE TESTIMONIALS” FROM FOOD PANTRY GUESTS*

- ❖ Why I use it? ‘Cause my family is broke and homeless.
- ❖ We have two homeless people living with us the last six months.
- ❖ If it wasn’t for the food bank my family wouldn’t be having meals, ‘cause there’s 10 of us in the house and I have the only income.
- ❖ My husband and I have jobs but don’t make enough money to feed children with food prices so high.
- ❖ We wouldn’t be able to make it without the food pantry. Laid off and unable to find job due to age.
- ❖ I’m a disabled single mother trying to support my son and I. Being able to get food from the food pantry greatly helps out my family and relieves a lot of stress of trying to keep us fed and healthy.
- ❖ I have medical problems and am a senior citizen. Hardly have funds to meet my needs.

* Collected during the “Paper Plate” campaign in 2012



The Bethesda Community Food Pantry is supported entirely by donations and contributions of volunteers and partner organizations in the Ames and Story County communities. It is governed by the Bethesda Community Food Pantry Ministry Team that meets quarterly to review policies and finances.

The Food Pantry is open for guests:

Monday 9–11:00 a.m.
 Tuesday 1–3:00 p.m. and 6:30–8:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 9–11:00 a.m.
 Thursday 1–3:00 p.m.

For more information about how you can help, contact:

Bethesda Lutheran Church

1517 Northwestern Avenue

Ames, Iowa 50010

515-232-6256

[www.bethesdanet.org/site/resources/
community-food-pantry/](http://www.bethesdanet.org/site/resources/community-food-pantry/)

E-mail: foodpantry@bethesdanet.org

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BETHESDA COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

*Serving the
Ames Community
Since 1983*



Bethesda Lutheran Church
COMMUNITY FOOD
PANTRY



DECADES OF ASSISTANCE

In 1983

—a young mother with three small, hungry children asked for help . . .

In 1993

—flood waters closed Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA) and the Ames community needed help . .

In 2003

—an average of 332 Ames area families received one or two bags of groceries per month . . .

In 2013

—16,733 individuals were served by the Food Pantry in 2013
—125,339 pounds of weighed food was distributed in 2013
. . . all thanks to help from 70 regular volunteers and donations from more than 70 organizations, businesses, and groups plus numerous individuals . . .



“FOOD INSECURITY”

- 17.6-million households were food insecure in 2012
- 70-million households had very low food security in 2012, this is unchanged from 2011; very low food insecurity means reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake

Source: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research/report/err155.aspx#.UnP2KfmschZ

- One in eight Iowans are food insecure
- One in five children in Iowa do not have enough to eat
- Nearly 396,000 Iowans live at or below the poverty line

Source: www.foodbankiowa.org/GetInvolved/AboutHunger.aspx



FAMILIES USING THE FOOD PANTRY

- 1,317 different families were provided food in 2012
- 54% were from Ames
- 41% came only once during the year to the Food Pantry
- 1.5% came every month
- One-fourth came 5-12 times per year
- Two-thirds of the families have 1-4 members and one-third have 5 or more family members

(Data from 2012)



VISIT THESE WEB SITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

Iowa Policy Project—“State of Working Iowa”
www.iowapolicyproject.org

Iowa Food Bank Association— Feeding Iowa
www.iowafba.org

2nd Harvest Gleaners Food Bank/West Michigan, Inc.
www.endhungerinamerica.org

The Bethesda Community Food Pantry demonstrates Jesus’ love for others by providing supplemental food to all who ask.