

Rhineland Area Food Bank
Annual Report for 2021
Prepared December, 2021

Since the inception of the Rhineland Area Food Bank in June of 1997, it has been located in the South Wing of the Altona Bergthaler Church. Beginning early in 2022, we plan to move to a location, being provided for us by Sun Valley Coop. It will be on one level, making it more accessible to clients with physical disabilities, as well as by our aging volunteer base. There will be ample parking, and should the COVID-19 pandemic allow, there will be room for clients to be inside the building as they wait to be served. We are extremely grateful to the Altona Bergthaler Church for their generosity in sharing the South Wing.

We continue to stress the wearing of masks and social distancing on behalf of our clients and volunteers, and sanitize the work stations after each client's visit. Our core of volunteers is ready to serve clients every Monday from 10 till 11 in the morning, and from 7:30 till 8:30 in the evening. We appreciate their dedication, as well as the dedication of the volunteers who unpack the groceries and stock the shelves.

There were 1421 client visits in the past year, 90 more than the previous year, averaging 129 per month. The grocery costs are higher than ever this year, with the average cost per client being \$2 more per week this year than last year. Fall food drives have been held by The Elks and by various Youth groups in the community, with vegetables and dry beans being donated by local producers. Those donations have kept the cost spent per client down. The response this year, in terms of cash donations, time volunteered, and food items provided, has been overwhelming and we are incredibly grateful.

We continue to focus on providing essential and healthy foods, such as basic canned meats, fish, fruit, vegetables and soups, as well as peanut butter, non-sugared cereals, pasta, rice, and juices. Health Department regulations prohibit us from distributing stale-dated, opened, or homemade items. 'Extras', baby food, or items needing refrigeration are not encouraged.

I would like to thank the Board for their work this past year. The Board for the 2021-2022 year is as follows: Angelika Stoesz, Chair; Bill Penner, Treasurer; Sharon Friesen, Secretary; Members-at-large: Laurie Enns, Jeff Peters, Lori Dueck, Jake S. Enns. Hilda Klassen continues to coordinate the volunteer schedules and organize the files.

We encourage all interested parties to attend the 2022 Annual Meeting which will be advertised at a later date.

Respectfully submitted by

Sharon Friesen, Secretary