

Supplemental Food Program -- sponsored by the New Paltz United Methodist Church

Background:

The New Paltz United Methodist Church has a long history of working to meet the needs of the community.

Initially, we were concerned about the summer food supply of families whose children are eligible to receive free breakfast and/or lunch during the school year. Since school is closed during July and August, there is a need for these families to have supplemental food during these two months. In 2017, we approached Administrative Council and with approval began a Summer Food Supplemental program to help meet the needs of these families. We gathered money to buy food. We assembled the food items into bags and distributed the bags of food to needy families through Family of New Paltz. In 2017, 50 families were provided with food in July and August.

In 2018, we provided food for 92 children in July, 91 children in August and 54 children in September. September was added as a result of a one time only grant from the Nyquist Foundation.

During the summer of 2019, we became aware of the food needs of senior citizens in New Paltz. In addition, we also were confronted with the reality that there were farm worker families in need but not coming to Family of New Paltz. In addition, we learned from Family of New Paltz staff that quite a few lower income families had moved to other communities because of high housing costs in New Paltz.

In response to the 2019 needs, we made contact with the staff at Meadowbrook, a housing complex in New Paltz for those with limited income and the Agricultural Business Community Development Center (ABCD Center) which provides child care and family services for agricultural workers' families.

At Meadowbrook, the need is for supplemental food for senior citizens. The staff identified 10 households in need. We provided supplemental food to these 10 households in July and August. In response to the need of agricultural workers'

families, we provided 15 bags of supplemental food each week to the ABCD Center during the months of July and August in 2019.

Need for Endowment Grant and Goals:

At the end of the summer in 2019, it was clear that the food needs of seniors and the ABCD families continued throughout the year. We continued providing bags of supplemental food to seniors and farm families throughout 2019.

The Endowment funds we received in January 2020 enabled us to continue providing food to seniors and families in need. In March of 2020, when ABCD Center closed due to Covid, food distribution to those families ceased. Food distribution to seniors continued.

In the Spring of 2020, we applied for and received a grant from United Methodist Frontier Foundation. The purpose of this grant was to provide funds as we bridged from a 2-3 month a year summer program to a full 12 month a year food supplement program. This was very fortuitous. In the early part of 2020 the Covid virus decreased our local support.

In 2020, the Rotary, Twice Blessed and Quaker Friends have been severely impacted and we have not received funds from them this year. In the past their combined support has been \$2,400.00 a year. The Lion’s Club has severely limited their community work.

In addition, the food needs of seniors increased with the Covid crisis. We now shop twice a month for senior citizens at Meadowbrook. The ABCD Center had closed and is now gradually reopening. We expect to reconnect with their director in the near future. Connecting has been complicated by all of the Health and Education Department requirements to re-open and the director has been on maternity leave.

Each bag of supplemental food that we provide costs between \$20.00 and \$25.00.

Budget For Seniors:

1 Month	\$400.00- \$500.00
6 months	\$2400.00- \$3000.00
12 months	\$4800.00-\$6000.00

Budget for ABCD Center:

1 Month	\$200.00- \$250.00
6 months	\$1200.00- \$1500.00
12 months	\$2400.00-\$3000.00

Need:

Meadowbrook staff has confirmed the need for 10 bags of food twice a month throughout the year for seniors at the Meadowbrook Senior Housing complex. We plan to resume supplemental food distribution to ABCD Center families in the near future.

Request:

A \$2,000 grant from the Endowment fund would provide supplemental food for these families for approximately 2-3 months.