

FOOD PANTRY Sponsor-A-Week

UPDATE



As of the end of August, our Annual Food Pantry Sponsor-A-Week, all 52 weeks of 2020 are sponsored! This is a testament to the beautiful people who step up and can support our Food Pantry program for a full week.

We are now taking donations for the Food Pantry **Sponsor-A-Week for 2021!** Please send your check or money order in to secure your spot today! Or go on-line to, www.olivetmission.org, touch the **Blue Box** on the front page that says, **FOOD PANTRY** which leads to a form where you can enter the amount to give and be sent then to Olivet's PayPal account.

However, there is a new option to sponsor **One Day** during this remaining time, for a donation of **\$115.00**.

Thank you for your continued support of our Food Pantry Program- every cent, every dollar that a donor gives stays in our community to purchase food for our neighbors in need.



OLIVET
neighborhood mission

230 10th St. N.W.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405



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Newsletter

Fall 2020

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT - FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

One of the services that Olivet Neighborhood Mission has expanded since October 2019 is our **Food Rescue Program**. Although ONM had a box truck, it was not until we hired a driver to oversee pick up services that we were able to expand this program. Westley Starr was hired to take charge of daily pickups. We moved to early morning daily pickups at HACAP, so clients were able to get daily fresh items from our Kitchen Pantry. In addition, we took on pick ups from the Kum & Go's (1st Ave & 16th Ave) three times a week. In addition, Wes does weekly pick ups at Great Harvest Bread, Target SW, Otter Creek Store (BP on County Home Rd) and Fareway (1st Ave). These additions have added much diversity and amounts of food that we are able provide to our neighbors.

As of the end of July 2020, Westley has picked up and delivered to ONM **529,729** pounds of food! *Way to go Wes!*



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Julie Palmer, *Director*



A Note from the Director

Olivet Neighborhood Mission has been able to weather the events of 2020 due largely to upgrading our freezers and refrigerators to commercial models during the first six months of this year. It all started last Fall 2019 when we decided to write a grant from the Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation asking for funding for one 3-door commercial freezer and one 3-door commercial refrigerator. First picture, our need, we had as of January 2020 a hodgepodge of 7 or 8 residential freezers and refrigerators throughout Olivet Mission that encompassed 80 cubic foot of food storage while serving 3,000 unduplicated people per month. Our storage capacity did not match the need for the food we needed to store to serve our neighbors.



But we get to later March 2020 and we all find ourselves amid a state-wide shut down with COVID 19. Olivet Neighborhood Mission find ourselves among the essential services and never closes. We partner with the Green AmeriCorps and start putting food boxes together and deliver to those who are quarantined. Again, funding finds us, and we can purchase two additional 2-door freezers and one 2-door refrigerator. In a matter of six months' time, we grew our cubic foot food storage capacity from **80 to 287.88 cubic foot!**

The importance of these purchases will again show itself when Derecho blew through our community on Monday, August 10th. With the use of a generator for 10 days due to widespread power outages, Olivet Neighborhood Mission hooked up those commercial freezers and refrigerators, and we lost nothing! No food was lost, and we continued to serve our neighbors in need! What a blessing!

SPECIAL THANK YOU to the following for providing funding to support this food storage capacity increase at Olivet Neighborhood Mission:

- Maurice Paul and Glennys Brimmer Foundation
- Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation
- Feeding America & HACAP
- Great America Financial
- Iowa DNR Food Storage Capacity Grant

Would YOU like to Brighten this Holiday Season for families in need?

2020 ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAMS

Olivet Neighborhood Mission's Annual Holiday Adoption Programs are a way for families that are struggling with difficult financial situations to receive help with meals and gifts. Each year we have over **1,000** requests from families hoping to be sponsored and with your help, we aim to not turn anyone away. Due to the chaotic nature of 2020, we are planning and expecting that **more families** will need holiday assistance.

THANKSGIVING

This year, Olivet Neighborhood Mission is asking for donations to be made directly to Olivet Neighborhood Mission in the form of canned foods, a \$20 gift card for the purchase of a turkey, or monetary donations. This is in part due to social distancing practices currently in place due to COVID 19.

Please make your Thanksgiving food donations or monetary by November 7, 2020. ONM will make sure that all families in need are assisted in obtaining the needed food items for this special family holiday.

CHRISTMAS

As a sponsor you purchase at least one Christmas gift for each child, 15 and under, in the family. You choose the family size you would like to purchase gifts. All gifts will be delivered to Olivet Neighborhood Mission due to the social distancing practices in place due to COVID 19 this year.

Sign-up to Sponsor a Christmas Family by December 5 so we have time to match you with a family.

To Become a Sponsor, fill out the form online at www.olivetmission.org

Do you like people and have a desire to help those less fortunate? If so, consider volunteering at Olivet Neighborhood Mission. We are currently in need of some volunteers Tuesday through Saturdays!

If you're interested in being a volunteer, contact **Julie for more information julie@olivetmission.org**

OUR MISSION

Olivet Neighborhood Mission is built on a foundation of service and dignity restoring hope to families and individuals in need by providing basic needs such as food, clothing, and household items. The Mission also provides youth programs that encourage self-esteem, independence, and community service. We aim to foster self-sufficiency and achieve long term success through respect, compassion, and community support.

