



About Hunger Resource Network

Hunger Resource Network (HRN) is an all-volunteer network of business partners, recipient agencies, and volunteers who serve those in need. Hunger Resource Network is not a food bank, but assists by linking these groups in an efficient and caring manner.

Hunger Resource Network's goal is to supplement food banks and local efforts to qualifying shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens through our network of business partners and volunteers. Whether it's connecting a recipient agency with a food source in their area or finding a business partner able to provide the agency with discounts to extend their purchasing power, we are willing to help make the connection.

Visit the [HRN website](#) or [email us](#) to learn how you can join us in working to alleviate hunger in our communities.

If you would like to contribute financially to HRN, please visit our website at www.hungerresourcenetwork.org under "Donate" to give through PayPal.

Checks are also welcomed via mail, sent to: 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, IL, 60062
We appreciate your support!

Hunger Resource Network Works with Hillside Food Pantry

Maiya Lueptow first heard about Hunger Resource Network after reading an article about HRN published in the Chicago Tribune in August 2009. The Hillside Food Pantry had been launched just a few months before in May 2009, but Lueptow, the Pantry Director, wanted to get in touch with HRN after reading the article.

Since its founding, the Hillside Food Pantry has grown from an organization staffed by 6 volunteers serving 20 families a month to over 90 volunteers currently serving 2100 families, or about 7000 individuals a month. The Pantry began by picking donated food up from one store, but has now expanded this to 6, in addition to the Evanston Farmers Market. Lueptow states that HRN has played a very significant role in adding to the number of places from which the Pantry receives donated food.

Last spring, Hunger Resource Network contacted the Pantry to enable the Pantry to pick up food from an Evanston Whole Foods store, as well as from the Evanston Farmers Market. Lueptow describes the connection with HRN as a God-send, as working with HRN has allowed the Pantry to double the number of stores from which it picks up food, and food is now picked up from the Evanston Farmers Market all season long.

Lueptow emphasizes that there are many ways that people can help to combat hunger in their own communities. The Hillside Food Pantry accepts volunteers as young as high school freshman who can help pack and distribute bags of food. Other groups have found ways to help out, including a Wilmette Cub Scout troop that assembled and donated 70 food kits that contained everything needed to make a tuna casserole, including a recipe. Several groups, ranging from the U.S. Post Office to elementary schools, have held food drives for the Pantry. A number of local residents have simply walked up to the Pantry to donate money or bags of food.

A team of church members, Pantry volunteers and patrons as well as other community members participated in the Greater Chicago Food Depository's (GCFD) Annual Hunger Walk in June which raised over \$2600 towards buying food at greatly reduced prices from GCFD. Groups can even volunteer at GCFD and raise \$5/hour credit per person that can be designated to Hillside Food Pantry's GCFD account for purchasing food.

Many volunteers also donate their time, such as a group of college students who came in from the Cincinnati area to help give the Pantry a thorough spring cleaning. A local pottery business held an "Empty Bowls" fundraiser and donated the proceeds to the Pantry. An Evanston school donated the harvest from their organic garden. Lueptow states that there is really no end to the possibilities of ways to volunteer to help fight hunger in our communities.

HRN Works with HEAR Foundation to Distribute Chicken

This year, Hunger Resource Network worked with the HEAR (Health Education and Relief) Foundation in Glenview, IL to distribute several thousand pounds of chicken to various area organizations that are working to alleviate hunger in the Chicagoland area. The recipient agencies included food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other outreach organizations that either cook and serve meals, or distribute food to families and individuals in need.

The following organizations benefitted from the chicken donated by the HEAR Foundation and distributed by HRN:

- Hillside Food Pantry- Serves 2100 families per month. Chicken was distributed to 150 families.
- Holy Family Food Pantry - Serves 950 Families per month. Chicken was distributed to families.
- St. George's Food Pantry - Food pantry opened 1 year ago and serves 275 families per month. Chicken was distributed to families.
- El Puente Latino Food Pantry – Serves 400 families per month. Chicken was distributed to families.
- House of Prayer Soup Kitchen- Serves over 800 meals per month. –Chicken was used in prepared meals that were served.
- Two Li'l Fishes - Soup Kitchen and overnight Shelter- Serves 2800 meals per month – Chicken was used in meals that were served to individuals at the shelter.
- Mission San Juan Diego- Serves low income senior citizens in the Hispanic Community. The chicken was used in meals served to individuals in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving.
- Hilda's Kitchen- Chicken was prepared and served by the St. Norbert Youth Ministry.
- Little Mexico Outreach - Thrift Shop and Food Pantry benefiting low income Hispanic families- chicken was distributed to families
- Fox Valley Presbyterian Food Pantry- Chicken was distributed to larger families in need.

Farmer's Market Season Closes; Volunteers Needed for Next Season

The Farmer's Market season has come to a close, and in this past season, Hunger Resource Network had 15 farmer's markets this year, up from 6 last year. We are looking forward to preparing for next year's season, and can always use further volunteer help.

Local Farmers Market Coordinators are needed to take charge of a single local farmer's market, networking with the lead HRN Farm-

ers Market Coordinator. The local coordinators are involved in coordinating requests to farmers/sellers, volunteers who pick up and deliver produce, and recipient agencies.

Additionally, we are looking for individual volunteers and volunteer groups to assist in the collection and distribution of collected donations from farmers markets in various areas. Commitments can

be from once a month, to weekly (during the markets' season), depending on your availability and willingness to help. The time commitment does vary by location, but is generally no longer than an hour or two on the day assigned, and is often shorter as some markets require less than an hour of time to complete volunteer duties.

Visit the [HRN website](#) for further information.

Whole Foods Market Aids in Hunger Relief Efforts

This winter season, shoppers at Whole Foods Market locations in Illinois can participate in the Bag Hunger program which aims to help local families. Whole Foods is working in conjunction with Share our Strength® in addition to local food pantries to work to alleviate hunger and food shortages that many families experience.

Shoppers at Whole Foods can purchase a Bag Hunger grocery tag to donate to the store's designated local pantry or shelter. The Midwest region of Whole Foods Market will then match up to \$25,000, to be donated to hunger relief programs.

The Bag Hunger program began Wednesday, November 3 and runs through Friday, December 31. Each Midwest Whole Foods Market store will purchase groceries for the local food bank they currently work with, to ensure local donations help local families. Whole Foods North and South in Evanston is partnering with HRN for the Bag Hunger Program and funds received will support agencies serving the Evanston community.