

A Story of Compassion

USDA Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Feed My People

Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The Feed My People organization was delivering food to 24 different food pantries in 14 counties of Wisconsin, and had requests from an additional 15 food pantries in rural communities to be included on the delivery routes. With the undersized delivery truck which they were using, they were unable to meet this demand. In 2007 the organization approached USDA Rural Development to discuss options available to finance a refrigerated truck in order to deliver fresh, wholesome food staples to families in need in remote rural communities of Wisconsin.

USDA Rural Development provided the financing in the form of a \$30,000 Community Facility grant. This grant was partnered with the organization's activities which successfully raised an additional \$52,000. The organization was able to purchase a 22 foot refrigerated delivery van rated at 220 horsepower and 23,000 lb carrying capacity.

In Dunn County, deliveries go to Dunn County Interfaith, Arbor Place, Bridge to Hope, and to the fairgrounds. There are two additional programs in Menomonie (Dunn County) that have applications in process for obtaining food from Feed My People Food Bank. In January, Feed My People distributed more than 7,000 pounds of product to food assistance programs in Dunn County for an estimated savings of \$10,000 to these programs. Feed My People provided 73 percent more food outside Eau Claire County in January 2007 (65,099 pounds) compared to January 2006 (37,632 pounds).

Executive Director Emily Moore stated, "It is already clear that the additional space is aiding our ability to provide more food to those in need. Feed My People supplies over one million pounds of food annually to hunger assistance programs in 14 counties in west central Wisconsin. The majority of food comes from corporations that choose to

donate, rather than landfill, refused shipments or products with damaged packaging or close dates."

Feed My People has more than doubled its food distribution capacity with the acquisition of this larger refrigerated delivery truck. There are more than 20 volunteer drivers delivering nutritious foods to 39 food pantries throughout the 14 county service areas. Their mission to eliminate hunger is closer to a reality than ever before and they are distributing twice as much food and grocery products to food pantries and soup kitchens than in the past.

About the Organization

Feed My People was incorporated in 1984 as a non-profit organization. Its mission is to eliminate hunger by obtaining and distributing food and grocery products to food pantries, soup kitchens and other programs serving low income people. It was founded by a ten member Board of Directors and has been in continuous existence for over 20 years.

