

PELLA COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

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WHY DO WE VOLUNTEER? by Kris Van Wyk & Lilly Kern

At the Pella Community Food Shelf, we are not just volunteers. We are a team working to further the happiness and health of our community. Working together benefits everyone, many hands makes for light work. We take pride in our community of neighbors blessing neighbors. Kris Van Wyk gives insight on what it means to be a volunteer.

“ From an early age I watched my family members volunteer. From my mom reading in the library at my elementary school, to my dad helping his neighbors by snow blowing all the way down the sidewalk to the end of our block. I was always told if you give yourself you will receive. I have lots of time on my hands and I believe in helping people anytime I can.

Since working at the Food Shelf I have met so many people and anyone that knows me knows I love to talk. I usually work at the Staples table and I have tried hard to remember almost everyone’s name because I feel it’s important to get to know my friends. When I see them around town and stop and visit, I feel God is leading me in this path.” - Kris Van Wyk

pictured above: Kris Van Wyk & Corrine Verschuure at the Coldest Night of the Year



HEARING FROM CENTRAL VOLUNTEER by Averi Shride

At The Shelf, we’re proud to partner with Central College through service curriculum and dorm service requirements (Green Pod). We’ve enjoyed welcoming students into our mission, with many serving for the duration of their semester or class. Additionally, we speak in various classes to share our work, raise awareness about hunger, and advocate for those in need. As one team member shared, 'These opportunities allow us to educate and inspire students, building a stronger, more informed community.'

“I first started volunteering at the Food Shelf through the Green Pod program at Central where we are required to complete a specific number of volunteer hours per semester. I saw that they were in need of volunteers for their new Thursday night program and jumped at the opportunity. Even though I have completed my volunteer hours for this year, I continue to serve at the Food Shelf because of the leaders and other volunteers. It has been an amazing opportunity to be able to meet new people and continue to foster relationships in the Pella community. Finally, my favorite part of volunteering at the Food Shelf is all of the different organizational tasks and connecting with the patrons each week.”

THIS IS GOOD GROUND TO SOW INTO

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, volunteered, and supported the inaugural Coldest Night of the Year event! Your generosity and commitment helped make this first event a great success, with 110 walkers and 30 volunteers coming together to raise over \$15,000 for the Pella Food Shelf. A special thank you to our sponsors and individual , whose contributions made a significant impact on our fundraising efforts.

We are also grateful to Coldest Night of the Year, a nonprofit event organizer based in Canada, and their philanthropic partners in the U.S. who cover almost all event expenses. This allows nearly all the funds raised to go directly to local organizations like ours. Together, we are making a lasting difference in the fight against hunger in our community. We look forward to seeing you back next year—thank you again for your incredible support!



WHERE DOES OUR FOOD COME FROM? by Dianne Pettit

- 1 The Food Bank of Iowa delivers twice a month, and we pick up additional items as needed. A shopping list is provided with specific food items or assorted boxes (e.g., pasta, soup, fruit, cereal). Changes in available items and quantities affect what we can offer guests. Food Bank of Iowa is also a nonprofit. They receive their goods generally for free from large manufacturers, suppliers and grocery stores. They are then able to sell these items to us at an incredibly low cost. Monetary donations to the Food Shelf stretch further through the food bank than when we rely on store donations for basic items.
- 2 Our second source is a valuable partnership with local businesses (HyVee, Fareway, Walmart, Markt, Dollar General) through "Food Rescue," which donates bread, pastries, produce, meats, dairy, eggs and other items. These donations complement both food bank and individual contributions. Additionally, local farmers and backyard gardeners share fresh produce and eggs with our guests year-round.
- 3 The third source is community and church donations, including food drives. Stores, churches, and businesses often have donation bins for the community to contribute, either based on weekly sales, specific needs, or themed drives (e.g., "Super Souper Bowl" or holiday bags). All donations are checked for expiration dates, sorted, and placed on grocery shelves for guests to select from. Individuals can also drop off donations directly at the Food Shelf if they miss the bins while shopping.

WHERE WE ARE TODAY

Households Served: On-Site

2024 (Jan-Dec): 4192
2025 (Jan-Feb): 762

Households Served: Mobile Pantry

2024 monthly: 240
2025 monthly: 240

Financial Contributions

Annual General Budget: \$147,000
Contributions YTD: \$21,146 (14% filled)

HopeFULL Movement Building Campaign

Remainder of Campaign Need: \$190,000