

# PELLA COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

PELLACOMMUNITYFOODSHELF.ORG

## NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

by Melissa Zula



Welcome to the beauty of the fall and the anticipation of the winter, holiday season! I feel as if at The Shelf has fallen into a steady pattern of service and I appreciate that greatly. The Shelf has definitely noticed the increase in guests and though that also means others are feeling struggle, it's also a blessing to know that we are here to walk with our neighbors. We have also been blessed with many, new volunteers who have chosen to meet the rise in need and we welcome them to our volunteer family. All is better when in community!

As we come into the season of giving, we are humbled by the incredible outpour of support through food drives, volunteerism and community events. This year we anticipate distributing supplies for 400 household Thanksgiving meals. Each registered household will receive a "Thanksgiving box" which includes items such as a turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, fresh rolls and ingredients for homemade pies. The Thanksgiving box is an annual event in which participating organizations are given a single item (x400) to contribute to the meal. To create these meals for 400 households requires a collection of 7600 items. Our community is incredibly generous and more than 10,000 items were collected! We had 18 participating churches or organizations and Pella Corporation offered to pack the 400 bags as a team event. This project is simply beautiful and our community shows their dedication to each other every way by answering the call to give.

Lastly, as our tables fill with the Lord's bounty and our houses fill with friends and family, we are given an opportunity to choose full gratitude to the one who gives it all. I feel deeply grateful to a Father who makes his promises and keeps them. He has continually shown up in this ministry and brought true answers to our next steps. I pray daily that we will always find him in the day to day and our guests find provision in Him. May you all be blessed this holiday season!



This picture is of the St Mary's youth group accompanied by their parents. This great group of teens began the evening by praying over the donated items, followed by counting all 7600 needed items!

# THIS IS GOOD GROUND TO SOW INTO

# ➤➤➤ GOOD SOIL REQUIRES NUTRIENTS

## VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 25 new volunteers for scheduled service in a variety of capacities from serving guests, collecting food and stocking. Welcome!
- Now serving Thursdays! Due to our high volume of guests, we have new hours on Thursday. Existing and new volunteers are welcome to serve here.
- We continue to advance our mission work; looking for individuals who feel called to start new programs. We will empower and help provide what is needed for you to make your calling a reality.

## HOPEFULL MOVEMENT CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

- The HopeFULL Movement capital campaign began in May, 2023 and will come to a close on Dec 31st. We are deeply humbled by the support throughout our community and beyond. This campaign is an effort to provide for its purchase and renovations. The HopeFULL Movement will guarantee that The Shelf has a home for its lifetime.
- All donors who contributed \$20,000 or more have the option to have their name placed on the Donor Board located in the community space. This legacy board will be placed permanently for view by spring of 2025.

## ➤➤➤ ART THAT SPEAKS

“The design and colors feel like joy”.

If you have been in our community space you have no doubt noticed our new wall mural. This beautiful piece of artwork was designed and hand painted by local artist, Annika Terpstra. Through learning about our mission, Annika designed this mural with 1 Peter 4:10 and John 4:13-14 as her inspiration. Guests have sincerely appreciated the mural sharing such words as “I just sat and stared at the mural. I see water and seeds but I think the first thing I noticed were the hands that serve”. It was important to Annika to infuse vibrancy and life to our walls adding “I’m grateful that I got to play a part in their mission and am eager to see more individuals feel more welcomed in with the piece in place.” This has been a beautiful addition to our space. When you have a few minutes, just sit and look at the mural. You might find something new!



## ➤➤➤ FUTURE COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you for the encouraging words surrounding our first newsletter publication. We will continue to work to produce them regularly to keep the community informed on all the exciting things happening at The Shelf. If you would like to be added to our email mailing list, please send an email to [administrator@pellacommunityfoodshelf.org](mailto:administrator@pellacommunityfoodshelf.org).

## ➤➤➤ WHERE WE ARE TODAY <<<

### Households Served: On-Site

2023 YTD (Jan-Oct): 2913

2024 YTD (Jan-Oct): 3420 (+507 households YTD)

### Households Served: Mobile Pantry

2023 monthly: 210

2024 monthly: 240 (+30 more per month!)

### Financial Contributions

Annual General Budget: \$147,000

Contributions YTD: \$95,000 (65% filled)

### HopeFULL Movement Building Campaign

Remainder of Campaign Need: \$307,000

