

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



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Donations provide thousands of Macomb County meals this fall; Need for help continues through the holidays

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. — A generous donation of \$5,000 from AT&T has helped the Macomb Food Program (MFP) raise a record 61,000 pounds of food to feed people in need as county officials brace for a holiday season where requests for emergency food assistance show no sign of decreasing.

AT&T's donation, presented to county officials at the food program's warehouse on Thursday by AT&T's External Affairs Director Jon Peterson, was in response to MFP's Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser held last month at The Pantry Restaurant in Sterling Heights. The annual fundraiser assists the organization in gathering enough resources to feed needy Macomb County residents for the holidays. This year's fundraiser was hosted by Macomb County Commissioners David Flynn, Toni Mocerri and Robert Mijac as well as State Representative Jon Switalski.

"In the face of the nation's highest unemployment rate, people are still willing to help others in our community. That says a lot about Macomb County residents," Commissioner David Flynn said. "We thank everyone for their support of the Macomb Food Program."

According to Sue Figurski, food coordinator for the MFP, the program has distributed more than 2 million pounds of food since 2008, and calls for help have increased more than 50-percent in the past two years. One pound of food is the equivalent of one meal.

"The help we've received is so very much appreciated — especially knowing that so many people are still struggling out there right now," Figurski said, noting that need for support is ongoing. "These donations bridge the gap for us until the holidays."

Anyone who missed the event but would still like to contribute may still do so by sending a check payable to "Macomb Food Program" to: October Food Drive, 21885 Dunham Rd., Ste. 10, Clinton Township, MI, 48036. In addition, anyone wishing to volunteer can call the program at (586) 469-6004.

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***Please see the attached fact sheet for more information on MFP.
Photos are also readily available to media outlets.***



Macomb Food Program: 2010

- In the past two years, the Macomb Food Program has seen requests for food assistance increase more than 50%. So far, in 2010, the requests have already increased 18% over last year.
- The program reached record distribution levels this past October, when it supplied area churches with 110,000 pounds of food (or 55 tons). One pound of food is equivalent to one meal.
- In Macomb County 57,124 households (consisting of 151,150 children, frail seniors, unemployed, homeless and working poor individuals) have been served in 2010.
- Since 2008, the program has distributed more than 3 million pounds of food.
- A \$10 donation will buy more than 70 pounds of food for Macomb residents in need.
- \$1 provides more than two days of food for a senior citizen, disabled veteran, mother with a small child, or a homeless person in the county.
- From 10/1/09 to 9/30/10, the program has utilized 79,866 volunteer hours throughout the pantry network.
- The program will distribute 2,500 turkeys this holiday season.

To contribute to the Macomb Food Program, please make checks payable to: Macomb Food Program, and mail to: OCTOBER FOOD DRIVE, 21885 Dunham Rd., Suite 10, Clinton Township, MI 48036. Anyone wishing to volunteer can call the program at (586) 469-6004.

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