

News

Macomb County Board of Commissioners



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Media contact: Patti Dib
586.469.6484
Patti.Dib@macombcountymi.gov

Local Educators Collect 52,000 Pounds of Food

CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A group of educators and staff from 15 Macomb County school districts today donated \$7,327 to the Macomb Food Program to aid local families and individuals with meals this holiday season. The program operates 55 food pantries around the county, serving 57,124 households in 2011.

The donation will allow for more than 52,355 pounds of food to be purchased. One pound of food is equivalent to one meal.

"Children are disproportionally victims of this economic downturn with one out of four children facing hunger. Thanks to the generosity of educators, our students will be more likely to have a meal during the holiday season," said Commissioner Dave Flynn, a facilitator of the donation drive, along with Commissioners Fred Miller, Toni Mocerri and Kathy Tocco and Representative Jon Switalski.

"As teachers, we see the effects of hunger in our classrooms every day; it's truly heartbreaking. How can we expect children who are worried about getting their most basic needs met every day to concentrate on reading and math?" said Marcy Gerlach, president of the New Haven Education Association.

"School employees often bring mittens, hats, boots and coats from home for their students who are in need. Many children are food insecure, and the only meals they can count on come from school. We can't pretend child hunger isn't happening in our community," said Utica Education Association President, Liza Parkinson.

To contribute to the Macomb Food Program, please make checks payable to: Macomb Food Program – Holiday Food Drive, and mail to: 21885 Dunham Rd., Suite 10, Clinton Township, MI 48036. Anyone wishing to volunteer or make a donation via credit card can call the program at 586-469-6004.

For more information, visit www.MacombCountyMi.gov/MCCSA/food.htm .

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L-R: Liza Parkinson, Utica Education Association President; Ann Wagner, Macomb County Food Program; Frank Taylor, Macomb County Community Services Agency Director; John Duffy, MEA-NEA Local 1, President



L-R: Commissioner Fred Miller, Liza Parkinson, Utica Education Association President; John Duffy, MEA-NEA Local 1, Representative Jon Switalski, Commissioner Toni Mocerri, Commissioner Dave Flynn



Macomb Food Program

The Macomb Food Program is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and a division of Macomb County Community Services Agency. The mission of the Macomb Food Program is to feed the hungry in Macomb County.

- In the past three years, the Macomb Food Program has seen requests for food assistance increase more than 50%. So far, in November and December 2011 combined, the requests have already increased 22% over the same time period last year.
- The program reached record distribution levels this past Pantry Day (December 7th from 8:30 am until noon) when 47 pantries were supplied with 88,239 pounds of food (or 44 tons). One pound of food is equivalent to one meal.
- In Macomb County 54,023 households (consisting of 152,552 children, frail seniors, unemployed, homeless and working poor individuals) have been served in fiscal year 2011.
- Since 2009, the program has distributed just under 5 million pounds of food.
- The Macomb Food Program is able to purchase some food at reduced costs – sometimes as little as 14 cents per pound.
- \$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.
- A \$10 donation will buy more than 70 pounds of food for Macomb residents in need.
- From 10/1/10 to 9/30/11, the program has utilized 81,273 volunteer hours throughout the pantry network.

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