

Mobile Food Pantry

May 13, 2011

What is the outcome of this proposal that will help advance the Healthy Polk priority?

- Easier access to healthy food, food pantries, for limited income

If there's already an organizational home, is it a good fit?

- Yes, DMARC

What does this organization know about what this project could/will look like?

- Several possible models:
 - Neighborhood-based
 - Book mobile
 - Meals-on-wheels
 - Ice-cream truck
- Could this also serve people with homebound or health issues?

What challenges do they face?

- With existing space, personnel and financial capacity, it will take 1-2 years to implement. Otherwise they would do it right now.
- Lack of Personnel, financial capacity, and space.
- Better transportation system needed
- Downside of mobile approach: makes it hard to communicate with families when they are mobile

How can the rest of us help? What do you need?

- Money, additional staff (\$75,000 a year), plus equipment
- 11-23,000 sq ft.
- Warehouse space, anywhere, but a location in central Iowa is required for job skills teaching

Anything else?

- West Des Moines Food Hub (23,000) sq ft. should be investigated
- Explore tax angle for empty buildings with existing building owners
- No policy barriers
- Work with Cisco
- Talk about it in every room
- Hy-Vee, Holmes Murphy, Wellmark as possible partners

Mobile Food Pantry Update
September 9, 2011
From [Sarai Rice](#) and [Elisabeth Ballstadt](#)

- Several mobile food pantry models are still being explored: Bookmobile, Ice Cream Truck and Home delivery.
- DMARC has formed a partnership with First Church of the Open Bible "[Dream Center](#)" organization, using the "Bookmobile" model. The Dream Center was already doing this. DMARC is providing veggie bags for this effort.
 - They distribute bi-weekly on Saturdays at 3 Des Moines parks: Evelyn Davis, Pete Crivaro and Bates
 - Elisabeth says the bookmobile model addresses some of the stigma issues that might arise if, instead, a truck pulled up to a house for home delivery
 - 360 veggie bags are being distributed per event. The events are not advertised in any way.
 - The events take a lot of volunteers to pack pages, do registration and distribution
 - Most of the families receiving food appear to be new to the DMARC food pantry system
- Sarai Rice commented that the myth has been dispelled locally that people with limited income do not want fresh fruits and vegetables

What are continued challenges to the mobile food pantry project?

- Funding for Dream Catcher to continue/expand their work
- Additional vehicles for additional sites
- Staff and volunteers for DMARC
- Whether new strategies/locations will be needed when winter comes