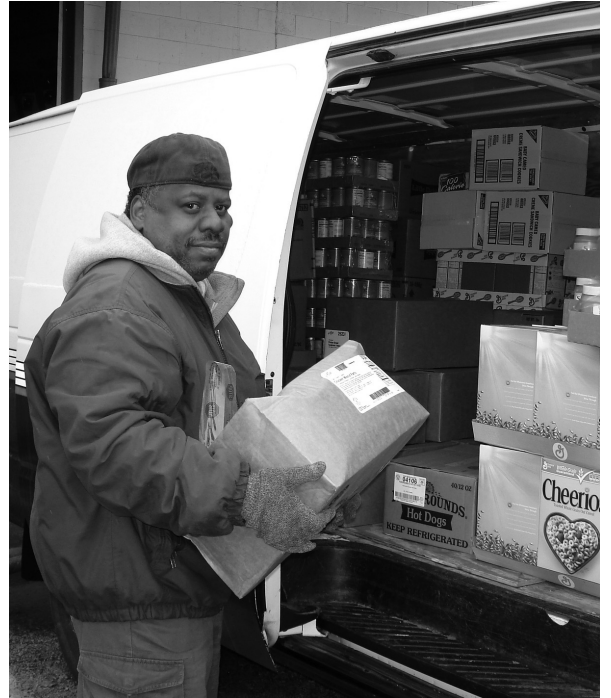


Winter 2010

F D

For Thought



 **RIVER BEND
FOODBANK**
Feeding the Hungry Since 1982

**FEEDING
AMERICA**
A Member of

Client Profile

THE GREY AREA OF NEED...

Carrie is a single mom of three, a full time employee at a local health facility, and a food pantry client. She just can't make ends meet on her pay check. At one point she came close to losing her family home. With help from local services she was able to keep her home, but the house payment skyrocketed to over \$800 a month. Every month is a sacrifice of one need over another, "That's how it was, it was like I can live in the house, but I can't afford to have anything else. It's like I do I pay my high house payment, or do I pay everything else?" She is constantly budgeting and has to structure all of her expenses around the house payment, including the cost of feeding her children.

Carrie lives in the "grey area" of need. She explained how she makes too much money to qualify for assistance programs but not enough to get by: "how do you get caught up if they say you make too much but you really don't have enough? I mean I can show you all my bills and how I pay them, but I really don't have anything." She identified applying for the assistance itself as a major hurdle. It required her taking off work to apply for help, something she couldn't afford. The last couple of weeks in every month are a struggle for the family. The food pantry she visits keeps her going when bills are not being met, but even with the food from the pantry and groceries she pays for, she still runs out of food. At least once a month she sends the kids to a friend's house to eat just so they can have a meal. She's donated plasma trying to make ends meet, but no matter what she does she can't seem to get ahead.

By Dee Elliot

Galena Food Pantry Wins the Jim Coyle Award

River Bend Foodbank has selected United Churches of Galena Food Pantry in Galena, Illinois as the 25th recipient of the Jim Coyle Award. This award is named in memory of Mr. Jim Coyle, a founding board member of River Bend Foodbank whose dedication and vision brought food security for literally tens of thousands of families in the bi-state region. The award brings with it a 5,000 pound credit that has a wholesale value of \$9,000.

Bob and Chris Smialek serve as Co-Directors of United Churches of Galena Food Pantry. "The award enables us to continue with the expanded services we attempt to provide to our community," says Bob. "We are trying to reach more people in need, provide food that is more nutritious, offer more selection and supply increasing amounts of food that will put more meals on the table at home."

In 2010 the pantry has provided its community with an estimated 165,000 meals, an increase of 30% over 2009.

"This award provides a resource that will help us continue all of our efforts, even in the face of rising need and the challenges of fund raising in a difficult economic climate. We are very grateful for this award and for the support we get from River Bend Foodbank all year long," says Bob.

Congratulation to United Churches of Galena Food Pantry, and thanks for doing such a wonderful job serving your community!

Past Winners

- 2009 Kewanee Food Pantry, Kewanee, IL
- 2008 Kings Harvest, Davenport, IA
- 2007 St. Mark's Lutheran, Davenport, IA
- 2006 Muscatine Food Pantry, Muscatine, IA
- 2005 WIRC, Macomb, IL
- 2004 Rescue Mission, Galesburg, IL
- 2003 FISH, Galesburg, IL
- 2002 Christian Friendliness, Moline, IL
- 2001 Sacred Heart, Rock Island, IL
- 2000 St. Pius, Rock Island, IL
- 1999 Valley Shelter Homes, Davenport, IA
- 1998 Family Resources, Davenport, IA
- 1997 Humility of Mary, Davenport, IA
- 1996 St. Mary's, Moline, IL
- 1995 St. Anthony's, Davenport, IA
- 1994 Illinois Valley Food Pantry, LaSalle, IL
- 1993 Hispanic United Methodist, Rock Island, IL
- 1992 Colona Food Pantry, Colona, IL
- 1991 Geneseo Food Pantry, Geneseo, IL
- 1990 Friendly House, Davenport, IA
- 1989 Buffalo Pantry, Buffalo, IA
- 1988 Sacred Heart, Rock Island, IL
- 1987 Coyne Center Pantry, Coyne Center, IL
- 1986 Truth Temple, Rock Island, IL

On the Wishlist!

WAGONS -- New or Used for our Mobile Food Pantries

We give out a lot of food at our Mobile Food Pantries and it can be hard to carry it all. These red wagons are really wonderful for the volunteers who are helping women and the elderly get their groceries to their car. If you have a wagon you're no longer using or could possibly even buy us a new one, we would definitely put it to good use!





River Bend Foodbank distributed more than 6 million pounds of food this past year...



The backpack program provides more than 1,300 local school children with food to take home every weekend of the school year.



38% of food pantry recipients are children.



Over 45,000 free meals were served at the Foodbank's four Kids Cafe sites in 2010.

KIDS CAFE LOCATIONS

Friendly House, Davenport

75 meals, 4 nights a week

Boys & Girls Club, Moline

100 meals, 4 nights a week

United Neighbors, Davenport

125 meals, 3 nights a week

Martin Luther King Ctr, Rock Island

60 meals, 4 nights a week

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 19
MOLINE, IL

www.riverbendfoodbank.org

309 12th Street
Moline, IL 61265
(309) 764-7434

RIVER BEND FOODBANK

