Meijer Simply Give Helps Metro Detroit Pantry Meet High Demand During the Holidays

A Rochester, Mich. mother of a 6-year-old girl was suddenly on the brink of eviction after her car broke down, requiring a $3,500 repair. Without transportation, she couldn't get to work, and soon, her bills piled up.

With no way to afford rent or groceries, she turned to the Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry where she found immediate support.

"For her, having food on the table meant one less worry during a challenging time," said Michael Dreon, executive director of the Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry. "She could focus on keeping her family safe, avoiding eviction, and stabilizing her finances. Stories like hers remind us of why we're here and how essential community support is in helping families through setbacks."

This support is strengthened by partners like Meijer. Our Simply Give program supports the Metro Detroit pantry year-round, so it can consistently meet the demand, especially during the holiday season when food insecurity is felt most sharply. The pantry partners with both our Rochester and Rochester Hills supercenters.

"Our team members are thankful to partner with the Rochester Hills Food Pantry and for our continued support of the communities that we serve and live in," said Rochester Hills Store Director Loy Crawford, Jr.

"Our need has risen by 20% each of the past two years. Over recent years, and for low-income families, food expenses can now consume up to 30% of their budget. It's a huge factor in driving people to our pantry," said Michael.

The flexibility Simply Give provides allows the pantry to quickly respond to shifting needs. With around 125 items regularly stocked, the pantry relies on donations for about 75% of their inventory, while the remaining 25% comes through Simply Give.

This means canned goods, fresh produce, eggs, and milk are always available.

Each Thanksgiving, the pantry provides families with special meal baskets that include everything they need for a holiday celebration, including a turkey. As demand has surged, our support has allowed the pantry to maintain these programs without turning anyone away.

Founded 55 years ago by local churches, the Rochester Area Neighborhood House Food Pantry serves more than 600 families annually across Rochester and nearby communities.

"Our mission is to keep families fed and help them through tough times," Michael said. "During the holidays, the demand only rises, and it's thanks to Meijer's consistent support that we can meet those needs. For so many of our families, it makes all the difference."

Additional assets available online: Photos (1)

https://meijercommunity.com/Meijer-Simply-Give-Helps-Metro-Detroit-Pantry-Meet-High-Demand-During-the-Holidays