



**Steele County Food Shelf Mission Statement:** The Mission of the Steele County Food Shelf is to provide nutritious food to the hungry; promote client self-sufficiency; identify causes and effects of hunger; make referrals to additional resources and advocate and educate primarily through the work of volunteers.

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Office Hours  
Monday, Wednesday  
 9:00am—5:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday  
 9:00am-3:30pm

Saturday  
 8:00am-11:30am

Steele County Food Shelf —  
 an agency of:

Minnesota FoodShare Month Results

For the second year in a row, Steele County Food Shelf received the award for Overall Top 20 for Food and Fund Drives by being #13 in dollars and food raised throughout the State of Minnesota. In addition, we also received the second place award for Top Food Shelf serving between 5,000 and 11,999 customers. The final amount raised was \$124,133 and 55,833 pounds of food. This is a tremendous testament to the giving communities of Steele County

The statewide food and fund drive is sponsored by the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches and is the largest fund and food drive for local food shelves in the state. Like Steele County Food Shelf (SCFS), this campaign raises awareness of hunger issues, good nutrition and access to government programs.

March is our largest fundraising month starting with the Hometown Sampler. This year's event included the musical talents of Bad Tangerines, The Gogs, Hot "n" Bothered, and Mile 5 Band. Emcees for the evening were John Havelka and Dave Otto.

Several area 4H clubs participated in the fund raising by having a Food Shelf Challenge. The Medford Go Getters raised the most pounds of food. A total of 746 pounds of food was raised and \$86 donated.

So many thanks to our corporate sponsors, including Express Employment Professionals, Federated Insurance Companies, Gopher Sports, Kent Rossi Law Office, KOWZ Radio, Owatonna Granite and Monument, Inc., Sparetime Entertainment, US Bank, and Wenger Corporation.



United Way  
 of Steele County



**A HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who supported SCFS during this March campaign and throughout the year!

## Berneice Cobb Receives "Good Neighbor" Award

During the Minnesota FoodShare campaign, **Berneice Cobb**, a volunteer for Steele County Food Shelf received the "Good Neighbor Award" which is sponsored by Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches.

Berneice began working for the SCFS in 1990 is very active in many other organizations throughout Steele County. Berneice has been a steadfast volunteer and donor to Steele County Food Shelf for 26 years. Her kindness to our customers is a genuine gift. She always has a smile and a welcoming demeanor. Everyone knows and loves Berneice and we so much appreciate her generosity.

Congratulations, Berneice!



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Alonso Hernandez, Manager  
Rich Pettet, Meals in Motion  
Program Coordinator

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Tracy Bjerke RDN, LD, Owatonna

## Meals in Motion - Rich Pettet

Meals in motion has been delivering food to households throughout Steele County since January 31st, 2017. Our goal is to deliver a 5-day supply of food to each registered household, twice per month. The average food package for these customers is 10 pounds of food. The food package consists of cereal, rice, pasta, milk, eggs, peanut butter, choice of meat, canned vegetables, bread, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables.



Photo courtesy of Owatonna People's Press

To date we have registered approximately 75 households. The average age of our customers is 72 and consist of shut-ins, seniors, disabled, and those who cannot afford or do not have transportation to the food shelf located in Owatonna. We have been very fortunate to have been able to serve these customers. So many have mentioned they would go without some meals if we were not able to help.

We were honored to have the Department of Health come to Owatonna to complete an informational video of Meals in Motion. They taped our loading process, preparation, and delivery of food to our seniors in Blooming Prairie, Minnesota. The video has been posted to YouTube at <https://youtu.be/RDa0TOH7eKk>. It's definitely worth watching!

As part of the original Meals in Motion grant proposal, we agreed to use the van for delivery of noon meals for children at the public library. This program is run by the Owatonna Public Schools and will be at the library, Monday through Thursday at 11:45 throughout the summer. Any child up to the age of 19 can come for a light lunch, which is paid for by the school system. Approximately 75-100 children come to the library each day to take advantage of this school lunch program.

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## Meals in Motion Continued...

Our current goal is to continue to add additional customers and customer sites to this service. If you know of any shut-ins that can be reached, please call Rich at 507-455-2991.

<u>Family size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Income</u>
One	\$23,760
Two	\$32,040
Three	\$40,320
Four	\$48,600
Five	\$56,880
Six	\$65,160
Seven	\$73,460
Eight	\$81,780

Add \$8,320 of allowable income for each additional family member

### **EXAMPLE:**

If your family size is two and your TOTAL annual HOUSEHOLD income is less than \$32,040, you are eligible to receive assistance.

For questions regarding this service, please contact Rich Pettet at 507-455-2991.

## Customer Profile

Rather than focus on one particular client this month, I want to write about a group of clients that use the food shelf and other services within Steele County during the summer months.

Migrant workers are recruited by Lakeside to work in their processing plant in Owatonna throughout the harvest season. Most of these workers and their families live in what is known as the "Grass Camp" just outside of Owatonna.

Alonso Hernandez, the General Manager for SCFS had an opportunity to visit this housing unit and to talk to many of the residents there. Along with other organizations, he was able to tell them about the food service that we provide along with the process to get registered. They are kind, hard working, honest, and caring. Most of all, they have a need for our service, along with other services from similar organizations in Steele County.

Summer is a particularly busy time for Steele County Food Shelf as we work to accommodate the additional needs. Donations to our organization are so much appreciated during this time of year.

## From the Director

One of our volunteers recently dropped off an article by the Associated Press regarding several states' efforts to reduce food waste. The article includes many interesting facts.

"In the United States, 30 percent to 40 percent of all food isn't eaten. About 95 percent of that wasted food, 38 million tons in 2014, ends up in landfills or incinerators where it produces methane, a gas that is one of the most potent contributors to climate change."

"To help relieve hunger, to protect the environment, and to help save money, only four states are trying to reduce those numbers. These states are offering tax breaks to farmers and small businesses that donate food rather than throw it away."

The standardization of "sell by" labels will also help to alleviate much of the misunderstanding with our current labeling structure and will help to lessen food waste.

The article goes on to say..."Meanwhile, one in seven Americans suffer from food insecurity."

This article came out at a most opportune time as Steele County Food Shelf is in the process of strategic planning. Information like this will help us to understand the changing culture and environment that we work to serve in. It is my hope that the experience of the strategic planning process, will help to move SCFS into new levels of service. More to come.

I hope you are all enjoying your summer!

Nancy Ness, Executive Director

## Food Shelf Families Served - 1st Quarter 2017 Statistics

- 2,312 households served, including
  - 3132 children ages 0-17
  - 3742 adults ages 18-64
  - 393 adults ages 65+
- 117,473 pounds of food



155 Oakdale, Suite A  
Owatonna, MN 55060

*We will be having a farewell gathering for Wayne Hasher on July 21st at noon. Wayne has been part of the SCSE Program and has worked at SCFS for the past 4 years, He has also been a volunteer since 2002 and will return to volunteering this fall.*

*All are welcome!*



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Owatonna, MN 55060

We were recently awarded an "Open Your Heart" grant which has allowed us to purchase a new refrigerated case. This will be a great way to help us preserve all the produce that is so generously donated!



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If you would like to have your name removed from or added to our mailing list, please contact us by calling 507-455-2991 or email us at [foodshelf@steelecountyfoodshelf.org](mailto:foodshelf@steelecountyfoodshelf.org)