

We exist to serve those in need and to eliminate hunger in Dakota County

EAGAN 651-688-3189
LAKEVILLE 952-469-3444
www.eaganrc.org

Pour Yourself Out and Fill Empty Bowls

Winter is a time to reflect, refresh, and respond

Winter appears to be the quiet season. The big holidays are over and we seem to be in a holding pattern, waiting for spring.

But hungry families can't wait. The 2011 statistics at the Eagan and Lakeville Resource Centers speak to the continuing struggle for



many families in Dakota County. In 2011, more than 679,340 pounds of food were distributed

at *the Pantry* sites in Eagan and Lakeville, a 77% increase over 2010. Upwards of 9,940 households were served, a staggering 79% increase over 2010. Additional *Pantry* hours on Mondays help meet the challenge of serving the increased number of families in need. The Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers may be the only access client families have to fresh, wholesome, healthy foods. And despite the growing need for food support, the Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers still set sight on a goal of our inventory being 70% perishable, fresh foods by year's end.



Give and gather.

This season we invite you to engage in our "Pour yourself out for the hungry" giving campaign by

volunteering, organizing a food drive at your school, business, or organization or consider



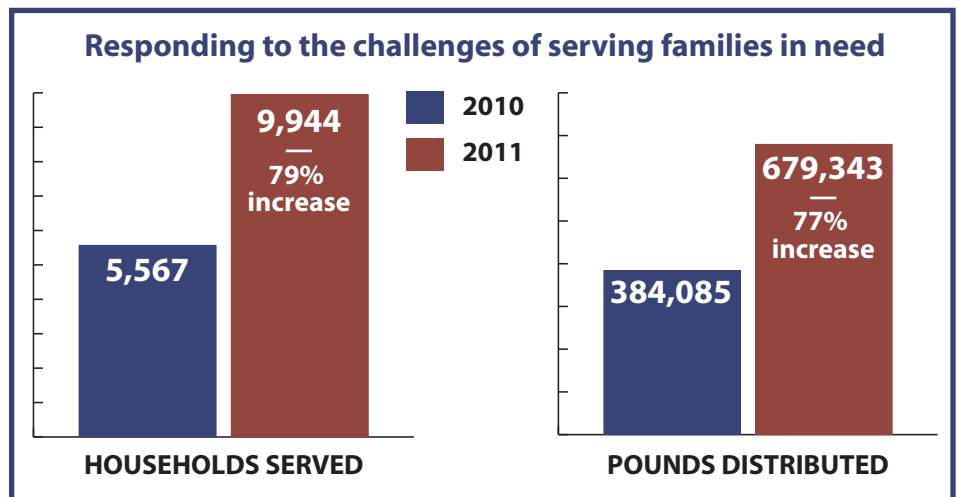
making a financial contribution. Download tools to help with your food and fund drive, including a suggested food item list and donation sign at <http://www.eaganrc.org/how-to-give.html>

The campaign's finale will be our 3rd Annual **Empty Bowls fundraiser** on Thursday, March 22, from 11am-7pm at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Eagan. Local pottery artists crafted bowls at an all day bowl throw on Oct. 23 at the Eagan Art House. Nearly 200 hand-thrown bowls were completed! Eagan *Color Me Mine* shop owner Julie

Schroeder has donated soup mugs hand-painted by customers who visited her store in Promenade Center.

Empty Bowls guests will choose a bowl or mug, make a donation (the fundraiser suggested donation is \$20 per bowl), select from a variety of soups, and take part in a simple meal while enjoying friends, music and community.

A highlight of Empty Bowls is the ART¹⁰ drawing! Guests purchase chances for a drawing for original paintings, blown glass, sculpture, reclaimed art, and more—donated by local artists. Ten lucky winners names will be announced. For a sneak preview of ART¹⁰ creations, go to www.eaganrc.org/events.



Lakeville Resource Center expands—again

After a year of serving clients in the Lakeville area and surrounding communities, the Lakeville Resource Center is expanding again. Last June, the Lakeville Resource Center followed in the footsteps of the Eagan Resource Center and changed the food distribution model so LRC clients 'shop' for the foods their families need.

In February, we will expand to include suite 137, next to our current space at suite 139 in the Holyoke Mall. Our new additional space will

be used to check in clients, provide an information table, and have a private area for initial intakes, benefit screenings, and resource referrals.

Newly acquired refrigeration and freezer units will help us to build upon the goal of 70% fresh and perishable inventory by year's end.

The two suites plus our warehouse in the lower level of the mall totals 3,535 sq feet.

Clients learn and enjoy Financial Workshop, jointly sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Personal & Family Financial Education and the Minnesota Council on Economic Education.

"Bridge to Benefits [information] was most helpful and job search, especially various websites. I really enjoyed learning about couponing, the meals, file folders and goodie bags. It made us feel like a 'Queen for a day!'"

—Carin, financial workshop attendee



IDEA GENERATORS

Biggest Loser competition yields big win for ERC

Local businesses are not only supportive of the Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers, but they are creative in how they engage staff. Last year, 12 **Minnwest Bank** employees participated in a 6-week challenge to lose 5% of their body weight. The entry fee for the competition was \$25, totaling \$300 which they donated to the Eagan Resource Center. Thank you Minnwest Bank's Biggest Losers!

Volunteer Opportunities

3rd Annual Empty Bowls: The Empty Bowls Special Events committee is looking for volunteers to help on March 22. Two hour shifts available from 11 am–7 pm. Go to www.eaganrc.org/events to sign up. Any questions call Nancy 651-605-2882 or email nancyw@eaganrc.org

Family advocates: Interested in working one-on-one with families in need? Consider volunteering as a family advocate. Family advocates are the first contact our clients have with the Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers. Training provided and volunteer opportunities are available during the day or the evening. For more information contact Mary Freeman, Program Manager, at maryf@eaganrc.org or at 651-605-2883.

Pantry shoppers, greeters, stockers: An on-line schedule is available to those who sign up as a volunteer, attend a one-hour orientation. Go to <http://www.eaganrc.org/how-to-give.html> for more information.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb–April **Pour yourself out for the hungry** Support local families in need this season. Consider a food and fund drive at your business, organization, school or faith community. Go to <http://www.eaganrc.org/how-to-give.html> to see how easy it is to get started and to download helpful tools!
- Mar 1 **Garden To Table Kick-off, Mission Gardens:** 6 pm–8:30 pm, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Open to all gardeners interested in serving our clients. See story below.
- Mar 22 **3rd Annual Empty Bowls fundraiser,** 11 am–7 pm, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Suggested donation of \$20 per bowl.

Green Thumbs Unite!

Mission Gardeners to meet on March 1

ADOPTABLE PLOTS: CLIENTS



MISSION GARDENS: COMMUNITY



Sustainable approach to eliminating hunger



Garden To Table Kick-Off: MISSION GARDENS

Thursday, March 1 from 6pm – 8:30pm at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

Interested in starting a Mission Garden? Already a Mission Gardener and want to learn more about how to better serve our clients? Want to talk with other Mission Gardeners to learn their best practices? The evening includes: Welcome & Dinner, Mission Garden introductions, Lessons Learned and Best Practices (volunteer engagement, garden maintenance, effective work days), How Mission Gardens Can Best Serve the Pantries (plant choices, harvest, delivery days/times, transport/storage), and more. RSVP lisahorn@eaganrc.org or at 651-605-2881.

Ideas for getting involved with Garden To Table

- **Ready the gardens for planting:** clean up the paths, mend fences, ready tools
- **Work side by side with a client** planting and weeding their garden
- **Garden at work:** Communicate with your business about planting a mission garden
- **Tend the compost bins**
- **Grow in faith and vegetables:** Organize your church to plant a mission garden
- **Grow a row:** Add a row or two of veggies in your home garden and donate them to the Pantry
- **Glean local orchards** in the early autumn
- **Put gardens to bed** in fall

GENERAL INFORMATION

Visit us at www.eaganrc.org

Eagan Resource Center
3910 Rahn Road, Eagan, MN 55122
651-688-3189

The Pantry
3904 Cedar Grove Parkway
Eagan, MN 55122

Food Appointments: 651-686-0787
Tuesdays/Thursdays 10am–3pm
and 6pm–8pm
Mondays /Wednesdays 10am–3pm

Lakeville Resource Center
20730 Holyoke Avenue #135
Lakeville, MN 55044
In the Lakeville Mall

Food appointments: 952-469-3444
Mon /Wed 11am–3pm and 6pm–8pm
Fridays 9am–1pm



Pour yourself out for the hungry

Hunger. It's local. Many of our neighbors, friends and family members are struggling to make ends meet. In 2011 the Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers experienced a 79% increase in households needing food support, and the need continues to grow.

What can you do to fight hunger in your community?

Consider a financial gift to the Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers. Together we can serve those in need and eliminate hunger in Dakota County. **Each dollar will enable us to stock \$10 worth of food on our pantry shelves.**

Donation amount ___ \$25 ___ \$50 ___ \$75 ___ \$100 ___ \$250
 ___ \$500 ___ \$750 ___ \$1,000 _____ Other

Donor Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers, 3910 Rahn Rd., Eagan, MN 55122

Please saving mailing costs. **Email** my receipt to: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION AND ON-GOING SUPPORT!