



## Ottawa County Food Depot

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### Ottawa County Food Policy Council

- ▶ The Ottawa County Food Policy Council was formed in 2011 to address local food insecurity.
- ▶ Vision: An available supply of well-balanced meals for all
- ▶ [www.OttawaFood.org](http://www.OttawaFood.org)

## Food Resource Provider Forum

- ▶ In 2013, the OCFPC brought together ~25 food resource providers from throughout the county to:
  - discuss current barriers to providing food efficiently and effectively to those in need
  - brainstorm solutions to some of these barriers
  - identify ways the OCFPC could be of assistance to their agencies
  - prioritize action steps

## Food Resource Provider Forum

- ▶ Common limitations mentioned included:
  - Not enough money
  - Lack of collaboration among pantries
  - Costs associated with purchasing food, staff time, and traveling to pick up food from the Feeding America West Michigan Food Bank
- ▶ As a result of the information shared at this forum, a collaborative project called the Holland Food Depot was born.

## Holland Food Depot

- ▶ Started in October 2013
- ▶ Located at the Macatawa Resource Center in Holland
- ▶ Serves as a pick-up location for local food pantries looking to stock their shelves.
- ▶ The Depot provides local pantries with a place to pick up their low-cost food orders without having to drive to the nearest Feeding America site 40+ miles away.

## Holland Food Depot

- ▶ Deliveries to the Food Depot take place on the third Monday of each month.
- ▶ The facility is a collaborative effort of:
  - Greater Ottawa County United Way
  - Feeding America West Michigan
  - Macatawa Resource Center
  - Community Action House
  - Ottawa County Food Policy Council

## Participation

- ▶ 5 pantries participated in the first depot delivery in October 2013.
- ▶ During the first year, 11 different agencies have participated in the depot.
- ▶ An average of 6.75 pantries participate at each monthly depot.

## Cost

- ▶ Currently there is a flat delivery fee of \$200/month (Paid by Greater Ottawa County United Way)
- ▶ In 2015, the fee will decrease, as Feeding America is going to a 3 cents per pound delivery fee

# Holland Food Depot





## Collaboration / Communication

- ▶ This is a great example of saving time and money through collaboration.
- ▶ We have also found that the local pantries are naturally communicating more, which is a great thing!
- ▶ The project has led to other methods of collaboration between local pantries as well.