



What is the GNPEP?

The Good Neighbors Personal Essentials Pantry, located at Arbor Covenant Church, 2509 McDivitt, will mark the first year of its operation in mid-October. It is a member of the PEPartnership, Inc., an alliance of 5 essentials pantries across Dane County. The pantry provides personal and household supplies at no cost to families in need. Products offered range from toothbrushes to toilet paper and diapers as well as many cleaning supplies. There are monthly limits on what and how often guests can receive items.

WHY is this important?

Unfortunately, food stamps don't cover personal essential items, nor do local food pantries regularly stock these items. Just imagine trying to get your baby ready for daycare without diapers, preparing for an interview without deodorant, or sending your children to school without clean clothes. PEP products account for 25-30% of the average grocery bill. These products mean more money for food.

HOW did this evolve?

The Good Neighbors Essentials Pantry grew out of the efforts of several churches in the Fitchburg and Madison area- Memorial United Church of Christ, All Saints Lutheran and Arbor Covenant were the initial churches. Fitchburg Christian Fellowship Church and The Church (at Christ Memorial) have joined in the effort. The Fitchburg Lions club has made a financial contribution. There is a collection bin and information station at the Fitchburg Public Library. Volunteers welcome guests at the door, register guests in the PEPartnership computer system, stock shelves, package items into portion sizes, and fill shopping bags. (Fridays 10:00 – 1:00 and the 3rd Thursday, 5:30 – 7:30)

WHAT has been done in the past year?

- * The Pantry has served about 180 family units
- * The Pantry has given out \$15,000 in personal essentials items to people looking to stretch their family budgets.
- * 41% of individuals served are children, and 21% are children under 3 years old

WHO makes this possible?

Other than funding for purchasing wholesale products, the entire pantry works because of the many dedicated volunteers who work on pantry days, deliver and package the products, provide the hospitality, maintain the website, enter computer data, serve on the steering committee, and coordinate the operations. The pantry welcomes new volunteers!

HOW can you support?

*Make a tax-deductible gift via check or Paypal (click on "Donate" on the website) <http://gnpepnet>, or by dropping off eligible items at the Pantry or at the Fitchburg Public Library.

*Sponsor a personal essentials product drive.

*Sponsor a personal essentials product collection and information station (\$25).
(See picture)

*Sponsor a week of operation (\$500).

*Sponsor a month of operation (\$2000).

*Invite us to do a presentation to a group, church council, mission team, or endowment group).

* Volunteer- go to the website to sign-up.

Thank you for considering this community effort to help families in need.

Questions, or further information? Please contact Pantry Coordinators: Nancy Baumgardner (nancybaumgardner@gmail.com, (608) 320-0977, or Robin Cherwinka cherwinda@tds.net, (608) 832-6388).

