



A FRESH APPROACH TO ENDING LOCAL HUNGER

formerly the Eagan & Lakeville Resource Centers



fresh news

The Pantry of The Open Door | The Mobile Pantry® | The Mobile Lunch Box | Garden To Table® | **SPRING 2015**

The Mobile Lunch Box Starts Second Year

Summertime boost for body and mind!

The Mobile Lunch Box will be rolling into neighborhoods again this year with healthy lunches and fun activities for kids. Last summer 2,749 children received additional summer meals and we expect more children to participate this summer. School-age children ages 5-18 will be able to sit at the countertop in the bus and enjoy a healthy sandwich, 100% fruit juice, fresh garden veggies, cheese sticks and more. Then outdoors they participate in reading, jump roping, and visits from the Fire Department or Bookmobile or even the Eagan Art House. One site has gardens with curriculum so the children learn how to grow food. As they head for home they can take a bag of kid-friendly foods to share with their family.

"Kids love the Mobile Lunch Box. They line up before I arrive and wait until I leave. They just don't want the fun to stop," says Pam Murphy, Mobile Food Coordinator.



Above: Mobile Food Coordinator Pam Murphy readies fresh fruit for lunches. Kids enjoy the Eagan Fire Department Safety Trailer at the Mobile Lunch Box.



Monthly Giving Grows HOPE

Become part of 'GROW HOPE', monthly supporters of The Open Door.

- It's an easy way to give
- Your donation provides a steady and predictable source of revenue during times when donations decline and the need for food support continues.
- Not only sustains programs but allows us to plan ahead in expanding our reach through programs like The Mobile Pantry.®
- Monthly giving allows you to plan your charitable giving.
- You'll be invited to a Facebook only group with exclusive information and goings on about The Open Door.
- Special invitation to events, unique to donors like you.



The SNAP GAP

42% of food insecure children in Dakota County are likely ineligible for federal nutrition programs because their family income is above 185% of the poverty level, leaving those families to rely on the generosity of others to put food on the table.

Source: feedingamerica.org/mapthegap





Bring on the Perennials! March Campaign EXCEEDS goal

Thanks to you—our generous supporters—The Open Door blasted past our March Campaign goal of 100,00 lbs of food and \$100,000. The March Campaign food and fund drives at schools, businesses, churches and individuals brought in 106,298 lbs of food and \$150,046.73. This is an amazing feat during the dreary months of winter and gave a much needed boost to our Pantries!



Because you also met our March Campaign Fruit Challenge our anonymous donor will be funding the installation of fruit plants and trees. Look for pics of ground breaking/planting day in early summer on our website and on our Facebook page.



Top, l to r: Eagan Student Government members Ellie Lyne, Logan Huso, Louise Haried, Lizzie Nolden, Molly Altermatt, Student gov't advisors Ryan Hauenstein; EHS Advisor Julie Comer; Lisa Horn and Susan Schuster from Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Bottom, l to r: Jan Hawkins, President at John Henry Foster and Lisa Horn; Pastor Jeff Conner, Erin Tornell, Cheryl Klein, Kacy Rodamaker, and Pastor Mike Shields From Trinity EFC, Lakeville.

**“If not us, then who?
If not now, then when?”**

— John E. Lewis



MN families with children face hunger

hunger.solutions.org



Garden To Table® is Blooming

Two new staffers at The Open Door have been busy getting the 140+ gardeners ready for the planting season. Margaret Perez, Food Equity & Access Manager and Alpa Goswami, Garden Coordinator hosted over 100 gardeners at the Garden To Table Kickoff dinner and planning meeting. Things are moving along as nearly all 140 gardens plots are already reserved and a new 6 ft tall fence has been installed at the Mary, Mother of the Church garden site.

"I love that clients from The Open Door have this great opportunity to grow and harvest their own fresh and healthy vegetables for their families," says Alpa. "I'm looking forward to gardening with them, and watching the gardens grow!"

Margaret has been planning with mission gardeners at local businesses and churches at their sites. "Our mission gardeners put their sweat, labor, and money into producing fruits and veggies for our clients at the Pantries. Fresh produce is something our clients value a lot. They know that can depend on The Open Door to provide it to them, thanks in great part to the harvest of our mission gardeners," says Margaret. "This month our partners at Blue Cross Blue Shield have already harvested and delivered fresh-picked asparagus and rhubarb the Pantry. This is just one way The Open Door is able to have such wonderful fresh fruits and vegetables on our shelves."

"I love that clients from The Open Door have this great opportunity to grow and harvest their own fresh and healthy vegetables for their families."

—Alpa Goswami,
Coordinator, Garden To Table

TOD TIDBITS

- Mark your calendar! *OctoberZest!* is set for **Sunday, October 4**. Look for upcoming details on our website and FB and follow on twitter!



- Look for our new, **re-designed website** coming soon! Easier to read and navigate and will look great on all devices so you can stay up to date with The Open Door while you are on the go!
- **Are you looking to volunteer?** Attend an informational orientation to find out about the variety of opportunities to get involved. Orientation dates are:
The Open Door, Eagan, 3904 Cedar Grove Parkway, Eagan. 1st Tuesday 5 pm
3rd Thursday 5 pm
2nd & 4th Wed 10:30 am

The Open Door, Lakeville, 20730 Holyoke Ave., Suite 139 in the Lakeville Mall.
1st Monday 10:30 am
3rd Wednesday 5 pm

E-mail volunteer@theopendoorpantry.org to register.



Not seeing our posts on Facebook? We'd hate to have you miss any news!

- Facebook decides what you see in your newsfeed based on an algorithm. You can change this setting to see 'Most Recent' posts rather than seeing "Top Stories" posts, which bypasses the algorithm. In Facebook on your computer, it's in the upper left corner under your picture.
- Like or share a post The Open Door posts lets Facebook know you want to see info from us.
- Like us on Facebook! [facebook/TheOpenDoor](https://www.facebook.com/TheOpenDoor)
- Follow us on Twitter! [twitter/@EaganRC](https://twitter.com/EaganRC)



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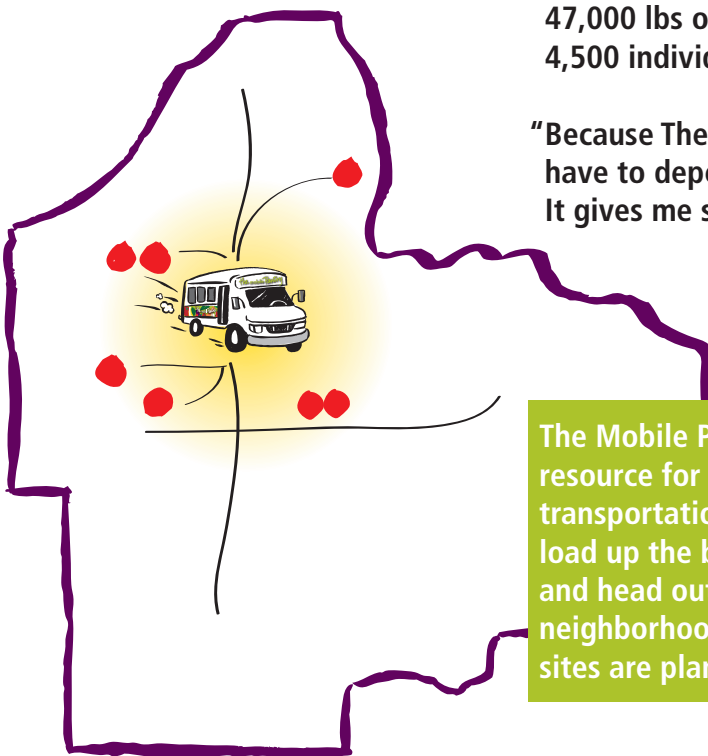
3910 Rahn Road
Eagan, MN 55122

The Mobile Pantry® now wheeling to 7 sites

47,000 lbs of fresh and non-perishable food received by
4,500 individuals annually.

**"Because The Mobile Pantry comes to our neighborhood I don't
have to depend on my social worker to take me to the Pantry.
It gives me some independence."**

—Apple Valley resident and Mobile Pantry client



The Mobile Pantry® has quickly become a healthy, equitable resource for food insecure people who lack reliable transportation. Four days a week, The Mobile Pantry volunteers load up the bus bins with fresh foods and non perishables and head out to schools, college campuses and apartment neighborhoods throughout Dakota County. New Mobile Pantry sites are planned for the Lakeville area in 2015.