

Stevens County Food Shelf Board of Directors Public Statement March 23, 2020

Stevens County Food Shelf has made some difficult but necessary changes to its operations. To minimize risk of CoVid-19 infection, drive-up only food distribution is offered at the Food Shelf 5 days a week at the following times:

- Monday 2:30-3:30 pm
- Tuesday 10:30-11:30 am
- Wednesday 10:30-11:30 am
- Thursday 5:30-6:30 pm
- Friday 10:30-11:30 am

People are asked to drive up to the Food Shelf and stay in their vehicles. A Food Shelf volunteer will come out to assist them. Food Shelf volunteers are required to ask the person's name, zip code, the number of people in the household, and how many are under 18 and over 65 years of age. Volunteers are also required to ask a question about weekly income and if this is the first visit to the Food Shelf.

The Food Shelf will distribute pre-packed boxes containing approximately 14 days of emergency food per person, with the option to return for more food in 14 days. We are working to distribute the food we have as safely and efficiently as possible, and we are assured that there is more food in the supply chain.

We ask that community members check in on neighbors who may need food assistance but lack transportation. Community members may assist others in need by providing the required information to a food shelf volunteer during distribution hours and transporting food back to the people in need. Thank you.

Donations are no longer accepted on site at the Food Shelf. Instead, food donations are welcomed at this drop site in downtown Morris: Old #1 on Atlantic Avenue, rear entrance between the hours of 11 am and 7 pm.

Please leave food donations inside the Old #1 back door without notifying or contacting anyone. Guidelines for most needed donations will be updated as needs change.

We highly encourage everyone to generously support the food shelf by donating securely online at:

stevenscountyfoodshelf.org or mailing a check to Stevens County Food Shelf, 701 Iowa Ave. Morris, MN 56267 or by placing your check in the drop box at the Court House.

The health and safety of Stevens County Food Shelf volunteers is of utmost importance. We have had to make the difficult decision to temporarily replace long time volunteers in higher risk categories with volunteers between the ages of 18 and 60 with no underlying health conditions and no symptoms of illness; and have implemented additional measures to safeguard volunteers and the people we serve. We sincerely thank all of our volunteers, especially those who have given many hours over many years. The Food Shelf wouldn't be here in this time of great need without them.

We are making every effort to keep our community safe and fed. We thank everyone for your hard work, patience and resolve as we meet unprecedented food needs together and move through this very difficult time.

Stevens County Food Shelf Board of Directors

Donny Wohlers, *Chair*

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Stephanie Knobloch, *Secretary*

Melissa Harrison, *Treasurer*