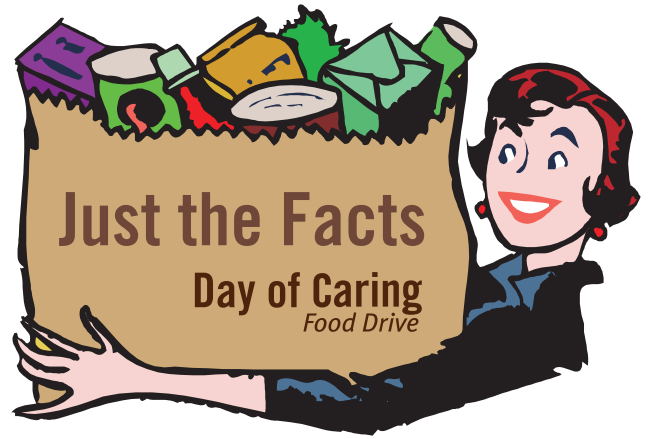


Why is the United Way holding a food drive?



In these hard economic times, it can be difficult to make ends meet and for some, it's been impossible - which makes donations to local food pantries more important than ever.

Did you know . . .

- Since last fall, area food pantries have been experiencing at least **30% increases in requests for food**. This means that the people visiting area pantries are not only previous clients, but new ones who haven't needed help before.
- With demand three to four times what it was last year and with donations continually coming in significantly less, **pantries are struggling to fill the constant gap**.
- Typically, a donated canned good would have been on a food pantry's shelves for about 4 weeks before a client received the item - today, that **average shelf life has been reduced to only 7 days**.
- For families and individuals to stay in their homes and keep their home life stable, they are severely limiting - or having to completely eliminate - expenses for food and clothing. Because of this, area **food pantries expect demand to continue to remain steady over the next 12 months**.
- Your donations to the Day of Sharing Food Drive will **benefit more than 100 food pantries** throughout Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties.

Day of Caring
Food Drive

