



June 30, 2011

Dear Community Member,

Hunger knows no season. Food pantries and free meal sites are serving more people than ever. You can make a difference to struggling individuals and families in Muscatine by supporting our second Thanksgiving in July Food Drive. This is a one week, community wide effort to stock the shelves of local food pantries. Our goal is to provide nutritious food for our at-risk population.

During Muscatine's Thanksgiving in July last year we **collected 3426 pounds of food and \$2,053** for three local food pantries and 2 meal sites. This year food and monies received in Muscatine will be distributed to the following local agencies:

Muscatine Community Food Pantry	Pearl City Outreach
The Salvation Army	Emmaus Café
	Loaves & Fishes.

**The Thanksgiving in July community-wide food drive will be July 24-30, 2011.** The Young Professionals Network of Muscatine, our primary local partner, will help spread the word, encourage and support food drives in their places of employment, and recruit volunteers to load and unload food donations.

We need your help as well! Individuals, businesses, civic groups, service organizations, and faith-based communities can make an impact locally by holding their own food drives during this time. Food drive ideas range from simply having a drop off box to having a car wash for non-perishable food or holding a ball game or concert with canned goods as the price of admission. Be creative to increase participation!

All non-perishable food you collect can be dropped off either Friday or Saturday:

- July 29th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or July 30<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 12 pm in the HyVee parking lot

During the month of July, monetary donations can be deposited directly into the special Thanksgiving in July account at First National Bank or mailed to Thanksgiving in July, c/o The Salvation Army, 1000 Oregon, Muscatine.

Please return the attached pledge card so we know how you plan to join this effort. We will email updates with the names of participating groups.

We would be delighted to answer any questions about the food drive. Visit the Thanksgiving in July website [www.thanksgivinginJuly.org](http://www.thanksgivinginJuly.org), call Capt. Kim Ray at 263-8272, or email at [kim\\_ray@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:kim_ray@usc.salvationarmy.org). Thank you for your support.

Thanksgiving in July Muscatine Planning Committee  
Capt. Kim Ray (The Salvation Army), Shane Orr (United Way),  
Brienne Fitzgerald (United Way), Carmi Spicer (YPN)