

Marshfield Church Begins Monthly Food Distribution



MARSHFIELD, Wis.

East Gate Alliance Church, 2203 East Becker Road in Marshfield, has partnered with Ruby's Pantry to provide grocery distribution to the community, the third Saturday of every month.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the program, and there are no income requirements. For a cash donation of \$15, which covers trucking and distribution costs, participants receive an abundance of food - up to \$200 in grocery items.

Ruby's Pantry, headquartered in North Branch, MN, collects surplus food and grocery items from manufacturers around the country, and distributes them through partnering churches and other organizations. These are not "bent and dent" items or outdated food items, but rather surplus food donated by the manufacturers - the same food items you would find in your local grocery store.

The process is very simple. On distribution days, volunteers from the church will unload several pallets of food, and create a grocery line. Participants need to bring their own boxes, bags or even laundry baskets, to fill with groceries. Upon arrival, they sign a liability waiver and pay their \$15 donation; then proceed through the line. Grocery items can vary from month to month, but everyone receives the same items, and the same number of items. At the end of the line, more volunteers help participants carry the groceries out to the loading area, while participants bring their cars around for pickup.

Registration at the church begins at 8:00 am. Food distribution begins at 9:00 am, and continues until all the food is gone. Participants are encouraged to arrive early, to be assured they are able to receive groceries.

Ruby's Pantry is not a government program. It is self-funded by those who participate, through the \$15 cash donations they make prior to going through the grocery line.

People from all walks of life participate in the program. It is not something just for the poor, but for all individuals, couples and families in the area. It is a great way to save money on your grocery bill, meet new friends, and, by offering to volunteer with the program, serve others in the community as well.

Upcoming distribution dates for 2011 are September 17, October 15, November 19 and December 17. For more information, contact East Gate Alliance Church at (715) 387-3654 or visit their website at www.eastgatealliance.com. For more information on the Ruby's Pantry program, visit www.rubyspantry.org.