



## Food Program for Children *Because Hunger Doesn't Know No Season*

Imagine going to bed hungry, waking up without breakfast and going to school on an empty stomach. Sadly, some children in our community don't need to imagine. Nearly one third of the food distributed through Northeast Community Fund feeds children. We estimate about 50,000 children in our service area struggle with hunger. We served 39,750 individuals with food in 2014 and 12,870 were children. Without this needed nourishment, kids can't grow and thrive. Nationally, 1 in 6 children don't know where their next meal will come from.

We have started a wonderful program in 2014 designed specifically for children. Our FOOD FOR KIDS program enables each child to have at least 5 additional items

We give an additional bag of food to all children as their parents come in for food. We started October 20, 2013 giving out a bag to all children ages 1-4 and also ages 5-18.

**From 10/20/14-1/17/15 --we have given out --587 bags**  
**From 10/20/14-1/17/15 --we have given out --2,375 bags**

We are working with University of Illinois Extension to make sure that each child receives good quality nutritious food.

We try each month to put fresh fruits, cheese, crackers, quality granola bars, 100% fruit juice, carrots, applesauce and cans (pop top) of fruit.

We are able to do this through 2 grants. The Kwianne Club of Decatur and the Young Philanthropists came and gave us a portion of the total grant given by the Howard Buffet Foundation. Thank you to these 2 groups for enabling us to make sure children have quality food to eat and no child will go hungry.

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## WSOY – Food Drive 2014

We want to thank the WSOY Committee for giving **\$40,000** to Northeast Community Fund from their annual food drive.



## Gift Cards for Veterans

Gordon Brenner from - Combat Wounded Purple Heart Veterans of the Vietnam War - came in to see us yesterday. He is personally a purple heart recipient of the Vietnam War and he is president of the Illinois Chapter of the Combat Wounded Purple Heart Recipients. His chapter gave NECF a donation to specifically help "any worthy and deserving Veteran that we become aware of" - especially any Veteran that comes to us who may be homeless. We have been blessed to have helped about 50 veterans in the last 2 years through donations from several organizations. This is a great part of the whole ministry of NECF. Special thanks to Gordon and his local chapter for this gift.

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## \$5,000 through Wal Mart for NECF

Wal Mart set up a program with all of the food pantries in the country. They gave \$5,000 to the top 75 food pantries who had the most people sign up on their web site for this project. Each person could register each day. We asked people to sign up so that NECF could receive this special donation. AND through LOTS of people going to their web site daily you helped us achieve this and receive a grant of \$5,000. This money is put on credit for us at Central Illinois Food Bank in Springfield. Thank you again for your help.



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## Have Fun With Your Food Drive

Westminster Presbyterian Church held their VBS in June and - 51 children, 34 adults, and 14 youth helpers were there. They collected 352 cans of spaghetti O's and Ravioli and

other cans for the children this summer. Then they built this animal at their VBS - What a great project! They also brought in LOTS of additional items of food for us besides. THANK YOU so much for the wonderful and generous gift. We had LOTS OF FUN.

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**All Praise to Almighty God for His continued blessings that he graciously pours out on NECF.**