



Steele County Food Shelf Mission Statement: The Mission of the Steele County Food Shelf is to provide nutritious food to the hungry; promote client self-sufficiency; identify causes and effects of hunger; make referrals to additional resources and advocate and educate primarily through the work of volunteers.

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Hometown Sampler Show times:

- Friday, March 3rd - 7:00 PM
- Saturday, March 4th - 3:00 & 7:00 PM
- Sunday, March 5th - 2:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday
9:00am—5:30pm

Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday
9:00am-3:30pm

Saturday
8:00am-11:30am

Steele County Food Shelf —
an agency of:



24th Annual Hometown Sampler
March 3rd, 4th, & 5th, 2017



The 24th annual Hometown Sampler is coming to town on March 3rd - 5th at the Little Theatre of Owatonna located at 500 Dunnell Drive. This year's bands include Bad Tangerines, The Gogs, Hot "n" Bothered, and Mile 5 Band.



Dr. David Dow, Past President of the Steele County Food Shelf and Hometown Sampler Committee member for this year's event states, "We've been working on preparation for the Sampler since November. We work very hard at ensuring a great show for people of all ages."

A free will donation of cash or packaged food is the price of admission. SCFS board members and U.S. Bank employees will be on hand to accept your gift at the door. If you haven't gone to the Sampler before, you've missed a great event. If you have come in past years, you know you don't want to miss it.

The two-hour show features four groups of local accomplished musicians who are donating their time and helping us to raise awareness about hunger and food insecurity in Steele County.

The Hometown Sampler is not just a great time, but also represents a significant donation by the musicians, their families, and the many families and corporations who help the Steele County Food Shelf kick-off the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. This year's goal is to raise \$24,000 or \$1000 for each year the Sampler has been performed.

"We have had to turn people away in the past because of lack of seating," says Thomas Hyland, Steele County Food Shelf Board of Directors President. "It's always a good idea to come early and this year, we'll have our new *Meals in Motion* van on display for anyone interested in learning more about that program."

Please join us for great entertainment and THANK YOU for supporting the Steele County Food Shelf!

Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign

Today, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various Minnesota organizations, businesses, and places of worship to help keep 300 food shelves statewide stocked throughout the year. The March Campaign is the largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, having raised \$8.2 million dollars and 5.2 million pounds of food in 2016, the most successful campaign in our 34 year history.

We envision a Minnesota where all residents have access to healthy food and no one suffers from hunger. The March Campaign addresses those issues directly, and we'd love to have you join the fight against hunger. By increasing awareness and advocating for long-term solutions to hunger in our communities, together we can meet the needs of those who need it most.

As an active member of this organization, the Steele County Food Shelf will actively participate in the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign by engaging local faith communities, businesses, civic groups, schools, individuals and media to raise food and dollars for the food shelf.

All food and dollars donated to our local food shelf will be reported to the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. Our portion from the statewide campaign is used for food purchases only.



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Alonso Hernandez, Manager
Rich Pettet, Meals in Motion -
Program Coordinator
Alysia Olson, Administration

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Introducing Meals in Motion - Rich Pettet

The Steele County Food Shelf is proud to announce a new food distribution program called *Meals in Motion*. Our organization has been awarded a grant from Hunger Solutions, which was created to increase capacity and efficiency and to facilitate collaboration among nonprofit and state and federal government agencies working to feed the hungry today, while seeking long-term systemic solutions to end hunger in the future.

"The grant was very much a collaborative effort," said Nancy Ness, Executive Director. "The organizations involved include Accessible Space, Allina Health, Mayo Clinic Health Systems, Owatonna Public Schools, the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership for Dodge and Steele Counties (SHIP), Steele County Food Shelf, United Way, and the University of Minnesota Extension. We all have a concern for the health and well-being of citizens within our county."

This grant gave the Steele County Food Shelf the ability to purchase a van that is outfitted with 2 refrigeration units, shelving, and a ramp that will be used to carry fresh fruits and vegetables and either a 5-day or a 10-day supply of food to those who are unable to come to our facility in Owatonna. The van will be easily recognizable due to the Meals in Motion signs on the sides and a list of our sponsors on the back.

"The mission of Meals in Motion is to provide food for those who are unable to make it to the food shelf in Owatonna. We will be distributing food to several cities in our county, such as Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, and Medford," said Rich Pettet, Program Coordinator. "Delivery will begin in February and will include several of the county's assisted living facilities. I am so excited to start this new program!"



Photo courtesy of
Owatonna People's Press

Meals in Motion Continued...

Qualification for the Meals in Motion program will follow the same guidelines as currently used by our location in Owatonna but there must be a reason that they are unable to come to our facility. The guidelines for assistance are as follows:

<u>Family size</u>	<u>Maximum Annual Income</u>
One	\$23,760
Two	\$32,040
Three	\$40,320
Four	\$48,600
Five	\$56,880
Six	\$65,160
Seven	\$73,460
Eight	\$81,780

Add \$8,320 of allowable income for each additional family member

EXAMPLE:

If your family size is two and your TOTAL annual HOUSEHOLD income is less than \$32,040, you are eligible to receive assistance.

For questions regarding this service, please contact Rich Pettet at 507-455-2991.

Customer Profile - Jane

"I never thought I'd have to use the Food Shelf," said Jane, a new customer. "It was like a house of cards and after several months of trying to make it on my own, I knew I needed some assistance." That's where the Steele County Food Shelf was able to help.

Jane was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer in 2015. Because of that diagnosis, her doctors told her that she was putting her life in jeopardy by continuing with her job. Jane was forced to quit and has been unable to work since that time.

"I've been focusing on learning new skills because my old job was very specialized. I know that will help me to be more marketable," said Jane. "In the mean time, the food shelf is helping me get through this tough time in my life. It is so much appreciated."

"I hope that someday I am able to pay it forward, but for now I'm relieved to have the help from the food shelf along with other organizations throughout Steele County."

From the Director

What a whirlwind the past two months have been! I have met some wonderful people, been reacquainted with many old friends, and have learned so much in the short time I've been here. Everyone has been so kind.

We have been busy preparing for and using a new database, which we use for inputting customer information. I am so very proud of our volunteers, clients, and staff for having gone through this transition in a very positive way. I know it's not easy to learn a new computer program, especially if you are not accustomed to using a computer at all. Thank you for your patience and what a wonderful job you've all done!

Another important project that we've been working on is the mobile food shelf, called *Meals in Motion*. Rich Pettet was hired in December to manage this program and he has done an outstanding job working towards getting this program up-and-running. You can expect to hear more about this in future issues.

Most important, however, is the upcoming Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. This year, the campaign is running from February 24th through April 2nd, 2017. I know we have had great success in the past, with Steele County being the 13th largest in 2016 and Channel One in Rochester, the food bank where we purchase discounted food, was #1. I am very hopeful that we are able to continue this success into 2017.

I look forward to seeing you at the Hometown Sampler!

Nancy Ness, Executive Director

Families Served - 2016 Statistics

- 6,355 households served
 - 307 households in Blooming Prairie
 - 125 households in Ellendale
 - 23 households in Hope
 - 18,270 individuals served (average household = 2.87)
 - 480,577 pounds of food given to those in need
- 377 households in Medford
- 5437 households in Owatonna
- 86 rural households



155 Oakdale, Suite A
Owatonna, MN 55060

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
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Owatonna, MN 55060

*Join us for the 24th annual
Hometown Sampler
Friday, March 3 @ 7 PM
Saturday, March 4 @ 3 & 7 PM
Sunday, March 5 @ 2 PM
Little Theatre of Owatonna
560 Dunnell Drive, Owatonna*

Supporting the Steele County Food Shelf since 1994

2017 HOMETOWN Sampler

CONCERT SERIES



Bad Tangerines

The Gogs

Hot "n" Bothered

Mile 5 Band

Emcees Dave Otto
& John Havelka

Friday, March 3 @ 7 PM
Saturday, March 4 @ 3 PM & 7 PM
Sunday, March 5 @ 2 PM

Little Theatre of Owatonna
560 Dunnell Drive, Owatonna

Join us for great local music and to support our community by helping restock the Steele County Food Shelf with admission of food or monetary donations.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors!



If you would like to have your name removed from or added to our mailing list, please contact us by calling 507-455-2991 or email us at foodshelf@steelecountyfoodshelf.org