



FACT SHEET

In 2009, Seven Loaves Food Pantry and CommUnity Center was established in response to an urgent need for a food distribution center in Collin County to serve 55,000 residents living below the poverty level. An article published in the Dallas Morning News on September, 8, 2011, indicates 55,000 is no longer an accurate assessment. The number is 100,000 or 14.1%. **Children make up more than half of this number.** This statistic is commonly met with disbelief, as Collin County is perceived as one of the wealthiest counties in the nation. One half of families served live within 6 miles of the pantry location in West Plano; however, the pantry does not limit services to anyone based on residential location and will provide at least one time assistance to any individuals that request assistance.

Seven Loaves, a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit agency, is housed in St. Andrew United Methodist Church. Through the combined efforts of a small, dedicated staff and thousands of volunteers, a week's worth of nutritious and balanced meals are provided to over 1,000 individuals weekly. Among those being served is the "new face of hunger" that defies stereotypical views and is not common knowledge. The fastest growing populations at food pantries include working people that simply don't have enough income to always put food on the table. Fifty percent of the individuals served are two-parent families that are underemployed. The remaining individuals are unemployed and, for many, the lack of education and job skills are huge barriers to success in today's marketplace.

Since its establishment in 2009, the food pantry has expanded into the Seven Loaves Food Pantry & CommUnity Center, and now includes related service units of Joseph's Coat (a clothing closet); Project Hope (a mentoring program with a focus on family, budgeting, education, health, job skills and other family matters); and West Side Clinic (a collaborative effort with the Collin County Adult Clinic serving indigent and uninsured adults). The food pantry quickly confirmed what they intuitively knew: hunger is ground into a complicated crucible with poverty, health care, education, and skills. **Current services include: Grocery supplements; social service referrals for medical assistance, food stamps, life skills; Food4Kids (a weekend food supplement program); Summer Lunch Program; Shoe 4 Kids (new, back to school shoes); clothing; Back to School Supplies (backpacks and school supplies); Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance; and tutoring for children (in planning stages for 2011).**

2009-10 stats: Distributed over 240,000 tons of food

23,407 weeks of food to clients, half of which are children
 9,000 volunteer hours
 10,120 individuals served with clothing
 37,800 Food for Kids Meals served to children in PISD
 8,095 meals provided to children through Summer Lunch Program
 500 children provided school supplies and school shoes
 2,800 individuals (700 families) received Thanksgiving turkeys
 4,000 individuals (636 families) received Christmas assistance

2011 stats (through August 2011):

Over 9,000 weeks of food to clients, half of which are children
 Approx. 5,500 volunteer hours
 Approx. 4,500 individuals served with clothing
 40,000 Food 4 Kids Meals projected for 2011-12 school year
 15,600 meals provided to children through Summer Lunch Program
 560 children provided school supplies and school shoes
 Est. 3,500 people (875 families) will need Thanksgiving turkeys
 Est. 4,500 people (636 families) will need Christmas assistance

Seven Loaves is a valued partner of the North Texas Food Bank and is tagged to become the NTFB primary distribution hub for Collin County. Seven Loaves works closely with other Collin County agencies and schools to provide relief to the families seeking assistance with a particular focus on children in need. Medical collaborative partners include West Side Clinic and Plano's Children Center. In 2011, plans are underway to provide additional social services and educational opportunities directed at improving lives and breaking the poverty cycle. Funding is provided from individual donations, grants, and corporate support. Additional information on Seven Loaves is available on the website.

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