



Reach Out Lakota

Community Pantry Serving West Chester & Liberty Townships

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Brenda Yablonsky
(513) 779-7515
brenda@reachoutlakota.org

Reach Out Lakota Announces Expansion Plans and a \$300,000 Donor Match

West Chester/Liberty Township - Reach Out Lakota has announced expansion plans that the emergency food and clothing pantry says will not just sustain, but expand, its ability to meet the rapidly growing needs of local families who live in poverty. One local family is accelerating the non-profit's progress toward that goal with a generous offer to match up to \$300,000 for donations received by the end of this August.

The pantry's plans include a move to a larger facility that is more than double its current size. The expansion is a critical next step for accommodating a large client base and allowing the non-profit to add on-site partner organizations that assist families with achieving financial stability.

"Our lobby fills immediately when we open, and neighbors must wait outside in the cold or rain at times," said Brenda Yablonsky, Reach Out Lakota executive director. "The current size of our clothing pantry limits how many families can shop at one time. And, our food pantry on the other side of the building no longer has the space needed to house the amount of food donations required to serve the numbers we're seeing."

The non-profit is embarking on a comprehensive campaign to raise a total of \$5 million. This includes a \$3 million facility investment and \$2 million endowment to ensure sustainable operations and program growth for decades to come.

Meanwhile, Reach Out Lakota has already begun the search for a 15,000-20,000 square-foot facility in its service area of West Chester and Liberty townships that will best meet its needs now and into the future.

For nearly 35 years, Reach Out Lakota has served the emergency needs of families in both townships by providing food, clothing and personal hygiene items. The organization has seen a 116 percent increase in the number of families assisted over the last eight years.

-more-



Reach Out Lakota

Community Pantry Serving West Chester & Liberty Townships

A larger building means the ability to help more families and expand storage space to accept more community donations. Plus, classroom and meeting space is part of the plans for the larger facility that will allow the pantry to bring other resources on site.

“We’ll be expanding our formal collaborations with social service partners that specialize in areas such as job assistance, debt management and budgeting to assist families with their journey toward financial self-sufficiency,” said Artemio Castro, chair of Reach Out Lakota’s Board of Directors. “We often say that we hope we go out of business one day. But until that time when there are no local children, seniors, veterans or others facing food and clothing insecurity, we will focus on providing a helping hand up.”

The mission of Reach Out Lakota is to assist individuals who live in the Lakota Local School District who, due to varied circumstances, face difficulty providing adequate food and clothing for their families. All food, clothing, and hygiene supplies are provided at no cost to families – a commitment maintained entirely by donations from the local community.

Care was extended to patrons over 16,200 times this past year, delivering over 409,700 pounds of food and 100,500 clothing items. Approximately 3,200 people received assistance, more than half of which were children. Annual programs also help families with back-to-school supplies, holiday food boxes, and holiday toys.

Learn more about Reach Out Lakota, as well as ways to support the organization, at www.reachoutlakota.org.

###

PHOTO CAPTION: Reach Out Lakota shared its strategic plan and \$300,000 fundraising donor match opportunity at a recent Community Breakfast.