

2008 ALL CITY SWIM MEET FOOD DRIVE

We would like to extend a warm, All City Swim Meet welcome to you at West Side Swim Club this summer. We would also like to thank you for your efforts in the past to make the food drive associated with the All City Swim Meet a success as well.

In previous years, the host pool chose the food pantry that would receive the collected food and an overall “food efficiency” trophy was awarded to the pool that donated the largest number of food items per swimmer.

NEW CHANGES THIS YEAR. This year, we will be changing the format of the food drive and partnering with Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin, Inc. in an effort to provide a greater benefit to a larger number of food pantries and food programs throughout the Madison Metropolitan area and also hopefully reduce the amount of work for the participating pools. Second Harvest helps other nonprofit agencies take action against hunger by partnering with over 410 food pantries, meal sites/soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers, daycare programs and Kids Cafes in 16 counties to help feed the hungry of southwestern Wisconsin. The major changes to the food drive are as follow:

- 1) Rather than the host pool picking one food pantry to benefit, this year each participating pool will get to choose a food pantry or program to benefit from food collected by that participating pool. (See next page for a list of over 40 participating food pantries and programs.) If your pool members need some help in selecting a food pantry or program to benefit, please give Gina Wilson at Second Harvest a call (608) 223-9121. She'll be glad to help you select a food pantry or program that could use some help.
- 2) All the food collected during the drive will be picked up by Second Harvest which will then issue a credit to the food pantry or program associated with the participating pool. This way, each food pantry or program can select from Second Harvest Foodbank the food that is most needed for its particular customers. In the past, the food drive collected mountains of Ramen noodles, but different food pantries and programs have different needs. This change will allow food pantries and programs to better provide the type of food that is most needed by their customers.
- 3) The “food efficiency” contest this year will be measured in **pounds** as opposed to **numbers of items**. This will obviously change the weight of the food collected by each pool. However, pool staff no longer will be required to count the number of items. Second Harvest will arrange one pick up at each pool prior to the start of the All City Swim Meet and will also pick up food each day of the Meet. At the present time, there are no plans to pick up food earlier in the summer. Any donations you wish to make of food or money to the food pantry or program of your choice earlier in the summer will be greatly appreciated, but unfortunately will not count toward the trophy. We simply don't have the manpower or money to make numerous trips to each pool or keep track of food items delivered to each food pantry or program before the swim meet.

This is going to be a great food drive and a great All City Swim Meet. We look forward to working with you to make them both a great success. Thank you in advance for your help. We also thank Second Harvest and its wonderful staff for helping us take this food drive to the next level.

For more information about Second Harvest, check them out on the web at www.secondharvestmadison.org or call them at (608) 223-9121.

For more information about the All City Food Drive, contact Tom German at 231-5987.

LIST OF PARTICIPATING FOOD PANTRIES AND PROGRAMS in the Madison area:

Allied Dunn Marsh Food Pantry
Bashford United Methodist Church
Bethel Lutheran Church
First United Methodist Church
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Grace Episcopal Church
Middleton Outreach Ministry
Mt. Horeb Food Pantry
Neighborhood House Center
River Food Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul
Verona Food Pantry
West Madison Bible Church
Westwood Christian Church

SUGGESTED FOOD ITEMS for donation:

Non-Perishable Foods:

(non-glass containers preferred)

- Canned meal items (such as spaghetti and beefaroni)
- Cereal, pancake mix, syrup
- Baby food, biscuits & cereal
- Dried & canned milk
- Canned goods, like refried beans, soups, vegetables, hash, meats (tuna, chicken, salmon, etc.), fruits, chili, spaghetti sauce, tomato paste
- Canned, boxed, or plastic bottle juices
- Boxed dinners (such as Hamburger Helper), pastas, rice, dry soups, dried beans
- Healthy snack foods, like peanut butter and jelly, granola bars, crackers (graham, animal), raisins, cookies, pretzels, fruit snacks & rollups

Miscellaneous Items:

- Diapers
- Toilet paper