

Pantry 2022 Conversation Guide (6/21/22)



Plan

- Who is your audience? _____
- What is the setting? _____
- What is your goal? _____

Conversation Starter

Ideas for starting a casual conversation:

- I'm involved with the Food Pantry, and I'm always impressed by _____.
- I was in a meeting the other day, and did you know _____?
- I drove past the new Pantry location to see how the building is progressing, and _____.
- I've been working on a project for the Pantry, and _____.

Problem

Why do we need a Food Pantry in DuPage County?

- Many families are in a temporary financial crisis due to job loss, illness, low fixed-income.
- Over 50,000 DuPage residents are living in poverty – 18% of the population.
- Almost 10% of DuPage residents are food insecure as a result of the pandemic.
- Over 20% of elementary school kids in Glen Ellyn qualify for subsidized lunch.

Solution

Why food pantries? Food pantries are the most flexible part of the social safety net and most readily available resource to help make ends meet.

What is a Food Pantry? They are just like a small grocery store, but all the food is FREE:

- Produce, bakery goods, dairy, personal care items, meat, diapers and canned goods.
- Food is donated by grocery stores, community groups, individuals and our food bank.
- Neighbors can shop every week and get to choose the groceries they really need.

Glen Ellyn Food Pantry is making a bigger impact than some may realize:

- More than 4,000 neighbors served in 2021.
- One-third are children.
- 75,000 grocery bags distributed (up 10,000 bags from 2020) = 74 Sears Towers stacked.
- Equates to 700,000 meals worth \$2.5M.
- Pantry partners with community organizations like the Kiwanis, DuPage PADS, Bridge Communities, as well as schools, libraries and churches, to extend our reach.

Action

- Donate food – drop off at the Pantry; organize a food drive; check for most needed items which are updated on the Pantry website and Facebook page every week.
- Donate money – 94% of what you donate goes directly to client services.
- Become a volunteer – over 400 active volunteers work onsite or other support roles.