

125 Years of Service to Our Community

# What can YOU do? -Volunteer Opportunities-

## Fight Hunger in the Food & Clothing Pantry!

You can make a difference and impact food insecurity right here in our community. Serving an average of 4,200 individuals each month in our food pantry, you can be a welcoming face to a family in need. Volunteers of all ages can help in the following way each day (Monday – Saturday):

- Food Pantry Guide: Guiding families through their grocery "shopping" experience.
- Checkout Counter: Assisting clients with clothing and household item selections.
- Clothing Pantry: Sorting, hanging, and organizing clothing and household donations.
- Grocery Aisles: Stocking and facing grocery items.

# Organize

Helping maintain the organization of the storage areas including food pantry, hygiene items, clothing pantry and essential household items building. We are looking for weekly volunteers to help us maintain all of this.

## **Clean Up Our Act**

Maintaining the cleanliness of the pantry and child development center is always needed. This is essential to helping us continue to have a safe and clean environment for our children and families that we serve.

#### **Green Thumb**

Planting flowers, gardening, mowing and yard cleanup are great examples of the outside work that needs to be done to maintain the Bidwell Campus, providing a welcoming location for families to seek assistance.

# **Organize a Supply Drive**

This is a perfect service project for work, kids, religious organizations, community groups, and clubs!

## Fill the Freezer – Thanksgiving Meals

Help a family put food on their table for their Thanksgiving meal. All meat is welcome. Most needed are: turkeys, hams, whole chickens, Cornish hens, ground hamburger tubes, and chicken breast meat. (Not all of our families have an oven to accommodate a turkey, so a variety of meats is always needed.) Won't you help us fill our freezer? (Meat must be USDA inspected to be distributed.)

## **Holiday Toy Pantry and Adopt-A-Family**

Help make a child's holiday brighter. New toys are needed for our Holiday Toy Pantry (new toys, stocking stuffers, stuffed animals, gloves, and blankets). You can also adopt a child or family from our Child Development Center. You will receive a "shopping list" to shop for them before Thanksgiving.

## **Poverty Simulation**

Want to understand what's happening right here in our community? Schedule a poverty simulation to understand the plight and struggles of the families in our community. 37% of all lowans don't make enough to survive at the cost of living.

#### **Financial Contributions**

Monetary contributions are always welcome. Your contributions will help provide food and basic necessities for a family in need and educational support for their children. Financial support will help us to continue to serve those who are struggling in our community.

**Volunteer Orientations:** When you or your volunteer group first arrives, we will provide an orientation which includes an overview about our organization and a tour. We provide a unique cultural and economically diverse volunteer experience.

**Volunteer Information:** Volunteer times are flexible; please let us know what works for you! Suggested volunteer shifts are 2-3 hours, but volunteers are welcome to stay longer. We are here Monday through Saturday. Special times and volunteer events may be arranged. **Large Groups:** We welcome groups of up to 75 volunteers at one time.

For more information contact Missy Reams at mreams@bidwellriverside.org or 515-244-6251 option 5.



1203 Hartford Avenue, Des Moines IA 50315 www.bidwellriverside.org