

Family Network of Wyoming-Kelloggsville Potential Partnership



Mission: To serve the Greater Wyoming area food, resources, and services to people in need. Our goal is to ensure everyone is given personalized service with a high degree of dignity and respect during their time of need. We believe that providing these services will build a stronger community and create a better life for future generations.



Location:
1029 44th SW Street
Wyoming, MI 49509

Phone:
(616) 885 - 9919

Website:
<http://www.familynow.us/>

Contact:
Gary Lemke
glemkefnw@gmail.com

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Client Choice Pantry

- **Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 5:30pm.
- The pantry offers extended hours to those individuals who work. Prior arrangements required.
- There are no pay stubs required to verify income. Individuals just sign a statement of need.
- The pantry serves individuals in the Wyoming, Grandville, and Kentwood area.
- Walk-ins welcome, there is no need to make an appointment.



Special Diet Pantry

- **Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 5:30pm.
- Specific food for individuals with chronic illnesses, food allergies, and other dietary needs.
 - Gluten Free
 - Allergy Free
 - Diabetic Diet
 - Other Special Diets
- The special diet pantry serves the entire Grand Rapids Metro Area.



Mobile Food Truck Pantry

Feeding America West Michigan (another non-profit organization that helps with food assistance and partners with many organizations, including Family Network) brings perishable food and other items for those in need of food.

- **Line forms 1 hour before start time.**
- **1st Thursday of each month beginning at 6pm.**
 - Location:
Wesley Park UMC
1150 32nd St SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
Phone: (616) 534 - 4411
Website: www.WesleyPark.org
- **2nd Thursday of each month beginning at 6pm.**
 - Location:
Beverly Reformed Church
2141 Porter SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
Phone: (616) 532 - 2871
Website: www.BeverlyReformedChurch.org
- **Last Thursday of each month beginning at 5pm.**
 - Location:
Calvary CRC
3500 Byron Center SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
Phone: (616) 534 - 0934
Website: www.CalvaryCRC.org



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Durable Medical Equipment Lending Library

Equipment is loaned to individuals of all income levels in the Grand Rapids Metro area at no charge.

- Crutches, walkers, and canes
- Wheelchairs
- Bathroom aids
- Shower / bathtub seats



NOW Program (Nutrition Options on Wellness)

This program is provided in partnership with Spectrum Health's Healthier Communities. Qualifying individuals who are diagnosed with a chronic illness are given a food prescription for food items specifically for their new diet. They can obtain these items at Family Network.

Learning Opportunities

In partnerships with local agencies such as Michigan State University Extension of Kent County and Spectrum Health's Healthier Communities, classes are provided on subjects such as:

- Health and Nutrition
- Cooking
- Gardening (Community Gardens)
- Food Preservation
- Computer Basics
- Money Management



The Christmas Store

The Christmas Store allows parents and children to obtain affordable gifts for family members.

- Available to qualified individuals (income dependent)
- Enrollment period is from September through mid-October



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Public Services

- Free faxing and copying services available to those seeking employment.
- Help applying for government assistance for food, housing, medical, and utilities.
- Job postings for those seeking employment.

STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

There are Student Academic Service Learning Opportunities for Upper Elementary, Middle and High School students at Family Network.

For most Student Academic Service Learning Opportunities, Family Network can only take 1-3 students at a time. Ideally, a group tour of the facility would be arranged prior to service (can accommodate larger groups for the tour). A class can share duties but students would volunteer their time on a rotating basis to assist with programs at Family Network.

Family Network's Food Pantry is unique because it helps individuals develop healthy cooking habits. Only wholesome foods are available for clients. This provides an opportunity for students to apply health and nutrition knowledge to a real life setting. Curriculum connections can extend into math (sorting, weighing, counting) for elementary aged students and science by studying nutrition and caloric intake of the foods supplied. Experience in the special diet pantry would emphasize the importance of balanced meals to maintain healthy physiology.

Food Pantry - volunteer hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2:30-5:30 PM.

- 2-3 students can help run pantry operations after normal school hours.
- In addition to assisting with client check out and processing, students can:
 - Repackage dry goods such as beans when a bulk order comes in (labeling, weighing, and sorting these items on shelves).
 - Act as greeters and cart retrievers
 - Stock produce
 - Label or create signage
 - Assist clients with selection of correct food choices

Medical Equipment Lending Library

Middle and High School students who are mechanically inclined or who are interested in working in the medical field are needed to assist (at any time, call ahead to arrange with Gary Lemke at the contact number listed) with minor repair and organization of items in the Medical Equipment Lending Library. Repairs may include: tightening the screws on a pair of crutches, making sure alignment on wheelchairs is correct, cleaning and repairing walkers or fixing damaged seats on wheelchairs. Students may also distribute items to clients.

Gardening

Students can assist with seasonal tasks in the demonstration gardens. This can be scheduled by calling Gary Lemke at the contact number provided. In the spring (March-early May), volunteers are needed to assist with prepping flower beds. This includes loosening the soil, adding needed soil elements, weeding and clearing the ground of rocks and debris. In the fall (primarily in October), volunteers are needed to assist with putting the gardens 'to bed', for the next season. This may include collecting soil samples for analysis, removing any decaying plant material, cultivating and tilling the soil for next spring, cultivating and tilling the soil for next spring, tending to and cleaning tools, and possibly sowing cover crops. Additionally, weeding and other daily maintenance tasks are recurring. The demo gardens are used for many classes at various times, (please see: <http://www.familynow.us/>, and look under the 'classes' tab for an up-to-date listing of gardening classes). There may be a need right before the scheduled class for maintenance tasks. Please contact Gary Lemke at the number listed above to schedule .

STUDENT ACADEMIC SERVICE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The Christmas Store

There may be opportunities for students to secure donations for this program. This can be done by contacting local businesses in person or by writing letters of request to solicit items. Alternatively, students may create a school wide campaign to collect donated items. Curriculum connections for this program can be linked to an English class (letter writing) or an arts or Public Relations elective (creating and displaying posters, marketing for donations, etc.)