

History of Food Bank - Alana Dunn, Curator, Eagle Historical Museum

The brightly colored leaves of fall and the harvesting of pumpkins, apples, plums, potatoes and other crops lends an air of bounty and contentment to most of us. Unfortunately, there are those that for some reason or another are not the recipients of this bounty of nature. To them, the crisp fall days are a reminder that cold winter days are coming and hunger may be imminent, especially if they have to choose between paying for heat and paying for groceries.

Although Eagle appears to be quite prosperous, there are pockets of poverty here. Some Eagle residents are among those facing the dilemma of heat for the house or groceries for the table.

The answer came when a group of school counselors, school resource officers, and other interested citizens met in the fall of 2005, and formally organized the Eagle Community Charitable Food Bank. Legal services to prepare the articles of incorporation and by-laws were donated by Kimball D. Gourley, and another citizen provided the accounting expertise and filed for non-profit status from the Internal Revenue Service. The small group purchased a cell phone to establish a phone number for the food bank, and members took turns taking the phone to answer any calls. They started operating out of an unheated storage unit provided by Eagle Mini Storage, where shelving was provided by a member of the Eagle Kiwanis Club.

One of the largest misconceptions by most people is that the Eagle Community Charitable Food Bank is somehow connected to the Idaho Food Bank. There is not connection. All food donated to the Eagle Community charitable Food Bank stays here in the Eagle and Star area and is given to local residents. The Eagle Food Bank does not receive any food from the Idaho Food Bank; if they did, they would have to pay for it. So donations of food to the Idaho Food Bank do not help residents of the Eagle area.

Currently the Eagle Community Charitable Food Bank is located at 149 W. State St, Suite 121 in Eagle, across from the US Bank on the east side of the Customedica Pharmacy building.. Their distribution days are the first and third Thursdays of each month, but food boxes can be obtained in emergencies by calling the Food Bank phone, 631-0702. Money donations are always needed, too, to purchase food items for the boxes that are not currently in the stock of donated items; they can be sent to Eagle Community charitable Food Bank, P. O. Box 478, Eagle, Idaho. Also additional volunteer help is needed. Anyone that could help out for several hours on two Thursdays a month is asked to call the Food Bank phone number to volunteer.

The volunteers and board members of the Eagle Community Charitable Food Bank would like to extend their sincere thanks to all the Eagle and Star neighbors who continually donate their food items and money to assure an adequate supply of food to out less-fortunate neighbors. All the time and effort put forth by the volunteers is without cost to the operation. It is truly neighbors helping neighbors.

Alana Dunn, Curator
Eagle Historical Museum