



THE **CUPBOARD**
COLLECTIVE

**Moving Food to Rural Maine's
Food Pantries**

**The Cupboard Collective
is a unique effort started
in Naples and Casco...**



**2 sn
more than 5,000 food pantry visits
every year**



- Local food pantries assume the burden of **thousands of dollars worth of services** for our towns each year, and they accomplish this with increasingly strained resources.

Limited Resources

**Maine food pantries
report lack of
transportation and
transportation costs as
one of their most
significant barriers.**



- Only 11% of pantries in Cumberland County receive any form of food delivery
- Maine's food bank and food rescue resources are located in high-population centers- the furthest from rural Maine pantries

Transportation as a Barrier

- Lake Region Food Pantries travel, on average, 60-120 miles round trip, 2-4 times a month to retrieve the food they need to stock their shelves
- Local pantries spend as much as \$2,000 a year (each) in gas costs

Transportation Costs



Transportation Costs

Gas that pantries spend transporting food is paid for by volunteers **or** taken from pantries' *food budgets*



How most food pantries move food to their shelves



- Pantries with limited transportation resources often favor shelf stable foods over fresh or frozen
- As a result, rural food pantries are less likely to distribute fresh food.

Transportation and Nutrition

- Food pantries routinely transport meats, dairy and fresh produce in their unrefrigerated vehicles
- Lake Region pantries travel as far as 1.5 hours one way to access food at the food bank and food rescue.



Transportation and Food Safety



**A Solution for Rural Food
Pantries...**

How It Works:



<http://vimeo.com/45512041>



Food Pantry Partners

- Food pantries enter their food orders online and receive each delivery
- Each pantry completes regular reporting for the Food Bank and pays a small yearly membership fee.

Food Pantry Partners



Town Government

- A **\$1,500.00** investment per town government provides a year of twice monthly deliveries of fresh and shelf stable food to any food pantry in the **town**. (This cost covers insurance, drivers, gas and wear and tear on Cupboard Collective vehicles.)
- This fee is often less than what a single food pantry spends, *out of its own **food budget***, to transport the food that it needs.

Town Government

- “The biggest problem the (Cupboard Collective) partners had is getting to where the food is and getting it back here to distribute it,” Berkowitz said. “For [\$1,500], we can have that truck come to Bridgton — **it’s cheap money for great security**”.



- *The Bridgton News*
February, 2012

Town Government



- The Cupboard Collective Program Coordinator is a grant funded employee of Good Shepherd Food Bank
- Responsible for program outreach, management and reporting

Program Staff



**Good Shepherd
Food-Bank**

Feeding Maine's Hungry



Emergency Food Providers



- **The partnership of Good Shepherd Food Bank and Wayside Food Programs is integral to the operation of the Cupboard Collective**

Emergency Food Providers

- Good Shepherd Food Bank processes, ships and loads the food that pantries purchase from the food bank at minimal cost online.
- GSFB and Wayside Food Programs coordinate to include free food rescue and federal subsidy foods on deliveries.
- Good Shepherd Food Bank's drivers and refrigerated trucks are used to make deliveries.

Emergency Food Providers

How We Have Grown:



Expanded Infrastructure



- The Cupboard Collective originally contracted a small box truck from Wayside Food Programs
- With just 4 pantries receiving deliveries, our truck was full

Expanded Infrastructure



- Good Shepherd Food Bank trucks now transport Cupboard Collective deliveries.
- By tapping into existing routes that food bank trucks travel to pick up donations, we are able to make Cupboard Collective's rural deliveries financially viable and maintain low partnership fees for participating towns.

Expanded Infrastructure



A Cupboard Collective delivery to Naples Crosswalk Community Outreach



Our Outcomes

- In the fiscal year ending June, 2012, the Cupboard Collective delivered over 75 tons of food to pantries serving three participating towns.
- **Over 27% of the food delivered would not have reached partner pantries if Cupboard Collective trucks were not available to transport it.**



More Food On the Shelves



Increased Access to Fresh Food

- To date, The Cupboard Collective has increased the amount of fresh food moving to your community by approximately **one third**.
- All of the fresh produce that Good Shepherd Food Bank and Wayside Food Programs distributes is **free** to partner food pantries

Increased Access to Fresh Food



Sharing the Burden

- Over the course of our first year, The Cupboard Collective saved our participating pantries 400 volunteer hours and 6,000 transport miles (mileage costs previously shouldered by pantry volunteers or taken from pantries' food budgets).

Sharing the Burden

**What started in
Naples and Casco...**

- In 2013, Good Shepherd Food Bank secured funding to grow The Cupboard Collective from serving **3 towns** to serving rural food pantries in **three counties**:
- Cumberland County
- Oxford County
- Lincoln County
- State-wide expansion of the Cupboard Collective program is now a part of the Food Bank's strategic plan

A model for Maine

**Thank you Casco for
Leading the Way.**



**Good Shepherd
Food-Bank**

Feeding Maine's Hungry

**For more
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