



Who We Help...

Your food drive will directly help hungry individuals in Minnesota- Here are a few stories about individuals who have used the Emergency Foodshelf Network in their time of need:

Annette's Story

Annette remembers praying over her two sleeping daughters hoping they will one day not have to worry about having enough to eat. That was twenty years ago. Today, one of her biggest worries is how to spread attention among 11 grandchildren.

Annette moved herself and her two daughters to Minnesota from Chicago in 1991 after Annette's five-year relationship failed. She knew a friend in St. Paul and heard Minnesota was a great place to raise children.

Minnesota required additional education to practice her degree as a nursing assistant, so she took a job in the kitchen of Ramsey hospital and moved into an apartment in the West-side of St. Paul.

Little money was left after paying rent and bills. "Even though it happened a long time ago, I can feel it when I talk about it." Annette remembers letting her daughters eat first, encouraging seconds. Only when her daughters were full would Annette nourish herself on leftovers, crackers or whatever remained in the cupboard. "It was the most difficult six months of my life," Annette recalls. Combining hard work, determination and prayer, things began to look up. Annette eventually found a second job as a data processor. She saved enough money to take the additional class and began in healthcare as a nursing assistant.

Today, Annette and her husband own their own cleaning business, and Annette sees her grandchildren as much as possible while still working part-time in healthcare.



Oscar's Story



The families who receive a Basket of Hope are thankful for the program, but Oscar is even more thankful to be alive. Oscar underwent a liver transplant at the University of Minnesota, and he says he's never felt better. He was working as an engineer surveying landscapes when he got sick three years ago. As his liver disease grew worse, Oscar was no longer able to work, and his wife of seven years was forced to move into section eight housing while he lived in the Salvation Army transitional housing facility. Oscar says he was never on the transplant list, but "by the grace of God, the University of Minnesota had his name". One Saturday afternoon they called, and the doctors said they were on the way to prepare him for surgery.

His body is accepting the liver. But he is trying to make ends meet for his two sons (ages 10 and 14) and twin daughters (age 13), and he hopes his wife will soon be able to move out of section eight housing.

Oscar and his family registered for a holiday basket after seeing the Emergency Foodshelf Network's (EFN) Baskets of Hope fundraiser on FOX 9 news. They enjoyed the Baskets of Hope meal that included a spiral-cut ham, 5 lbs. of potatoes, two lbs. of rice, a can of pineapple, two cans of green beans, two cans of peaches and a frozen apple pie.