Jan Schultz | The Imperial Republican

Chase County Pantry volunteers Diane Kuenne, left, and Mary Haarberg stock shelves at the pantry in Imperial.

By Sheri Hink

The Wauneta Breeze

It's nice to know there's somewhere to go when the home cupboards are bare and resources to fill them are in short supply. That's why the Chase County Food Pantry exists, to help those in need fill empty cupboards and tummies when the need arises.

The Chase County Food Pantry, located in Imperial, makes food and paper products available to whomever needs food, especially in emergency situations.

The Pantry is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at their

location at the City of Imperial offices at 740 Court Street. The Pantry is housed inside the City building adjacent to the City Gym in what used to be the girls locker room.

Approximately 60 families per month receive emergency food at the Pantry each month. Anyone who lives in Chase County is eligible to receive food simply by telling Pantry volunteers they need the help. Pantry recipients are asked to limit their request for food to once per month.

The Chase County Food Pantry is operated by 12 dedicated volunteers. Nancy Terryberry serves as president, DeMarys Cooper as secretary and Joy Smith as treasurer. The majority of their volunteers come from area churches.

The food and paper products distributed by the Chase County Food Pantry come completely from donations. Terryberry noted that much of their supplies come from food drives, local people making donations, churches and monetary donations.

The Pantry can also purchase food by the pound from a food bank in Kearney, if they have a volunteer willing to make the trip to Kearney to pick up the food.

How to help

There are several ways to help or get involved at the Chase County Food Pantry.

Terryberry noted that the Pantry is low on food right now, especially soups, but hopes the shelves will fill up again with the upcoming holiday food drives and private donations that usually come around the holidays.

The organization accepts food, monetary or paper product donations.

Those wishing to donate food can choose to donate any type of staple seen in their cupboards at home–canned goods and nonperishable items are always needed. But, the Pantry also has the ability to receive and distribute frozen foods and, to a lessor degree, fresh foods.

Those wishing to make a contribution to the food pantry can drop off monetary gifts, nonperishable items, paper or personal hygiene products (paper towels, shampoo, deodorant, dish soap, bath soap, etc.) to the City of Imperial offices during regular business hours.

Frozen or fresh food items must be donated during the Pantry's open hours on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Those who would like to volunteer at the Chase County Food Pantry should contact Nancy Terryberry at 308-882-5136.

Terryberry also noted that tours of the Food Pantry are also available for groups by contacting her.

Series on local service organizations and clubs

This story is the final installment of the ongoing series highlighting service organizations and community clubs in the Wauneta area. The purpose of the series has been to inform the public of what local organizations are doing for the community and how they can help.

Next week, Breeze readers will be asked to vote for their favorite organization or club. The

organization or club receiving the most votes will be given a $50 donation to use towards the project of its choice.