



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Office of Public Information

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ADDITIONAL DROP-OFF SITES ADDED TO “BRING THE HARVEST HOME”

Immediate Release

MARION COUNTY, Fla. (Oct. 14, 2011) – One and a half weeks have passed since Marion County kicked off its efforts to “Bring the Harvest Home” by launching a 21-day food drive to re-stock the depleted Brother’s Keeper, Interfaith Emergency Services and Salvation Army food pantries. Items have started arriving at Interfaith, and area partners have added their locations as public donation drop-off sites.

Public drop-off sites include:

- Marion County Fire Rescue stations (full-time locations).
- Marion County Public Library System locations.
- Marion County Sheriff’s Office sub-stations.
- Ocala City Hall.
- Ocala Fire Rescue stations.
- Ocala Police Department headquarters.

New faces have been visiting local food pantries since this summer, increasing requests for help with groceries by up to 44 percent. The spike has coincided with a dwindling supply of donations, leaving area pantries in a dire spot and vulnerable to not being able to assist area residents who need help putting food on the table. To help combat this, the Marion County Board of County Commissioners launched “Bring the Harvest Home” on Oct. 4, asking residents, organizations and businesses alike to donate items to help local families put food on the table.

The county will run the food drive through Oct. 25. Staff will deliver donations collected at each location to Interfaith, where they will be shared equally with Brother’s Keeper and Salvation Army. For a complete list of drop-off locations including addresses, visit: http://www.marioncountyfl.org/misc/Bring_the_Harvest_Home_locations.pdf.

The pantries are in most urgent need of:

- Dry goods/foods that complement dry goods (rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, crackers, peanut butter and jelly).
- Canned meats (corned beef, corned beef hash, ham and tuna).
- Canned vegetables and fruit.
- Baby items (ranging from powdered formula and jarred food to diapers and lotion).
- Toiletries, such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste and toilet paper, are also always needed.

For more information about Bring the Harvest Home, contact the Marion County Office of Public Information at 352-438-2300. For more information about local food pantries, contact Brother’s Keeper (352-622-3846), Interfaith (352-629-8868) or Salvation Army (352-732-8326).

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