



# ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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**Des Moines, Iowa**

**Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC)**

**Contact – Terri Speirs, Communications Manager**

**Email – [tspeirs@dmreligious.org](mailto:tspeirs@dmreligious.org)**

**Phone – 515-277-6969**

## **Des Moines Area Religious Council Awarded \$10,000 Grant from Nationwide for Emergency Food Pantry**

The Des Moines Area Religious Council (DMARC) recently received \$10,000 from the Nationwide Foundation. Grant funds will help support the Council's Emergency Food Pantry.

DMARC has operated the Emergency Food Pantry in Greater Des Moines since 1976, helping meet the short-term need for food when families are not eligible for or aware of public food assistance programs, or when the programs are inadequate to meet their food needs. Families can receive a free, five-day supply of nutritionally balanced food once each 30 days.

With a centralized warehouse and nine separate distribution sites, the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry is the largest food pantry network in Iowa. Pantry sites are located in West Des Moines, Ankeny, and Urbandale, with six sites in Des Moines. In 2009, the Emergency Food Pantry assisted more than 11,500 different families (30,000+ individuals).

"We are deeply grateful to have received these funds during this time of extraordinary need in our community," said executive director, Sarai Rice. "With one in six of our neighbors in Polk County living without enough food, this \$10,000 will help provide the equivalent of about 13,000 meals for low-income families."

"Nationwide is pleased to support the DMARC Emergency Food Pantry and the important work it does in Greater Des Moines," said Chad Jester, vice president of corporate public involvement for Nationwide and president of the Nationwide Foundation.

The Nationwide Foundation is an independent corporation funded by contributions from Nationwide companies. In the past ten years, the Nationwide Foundation has committed more than \$190 million to help nonprofit organizations in communities where Nationwide associates and their families live and work.

For a list of DMARC pantry sites and most-needed food items, or to donate to the Emergency Food Pantry, call 515-277-6969 or visit [www.dmreligious.org](http://www.dmreligious.org).

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