



**MEDIA RELEASE—
DMARC EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY NETWORK IS SEEING RECORD HIGH
REQUESTS FOR FOOD**

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Des Moines, Iowa

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November 23, 2010ó The DMARC Emergency Food Pantry network is seeing one of the highest levels of demand ever. The October numbers reveal a 15% spike in individuals served compared to numbers from last October, which were also high. In October 2010 alone, DMARC provided food for 3,602 families (10,551 individuals). This is enough food for 158,265 meals.

Currently, DMARC pantries are serving on average 400-500 new families per month who have never before requested emergency food from the DMARC network. DMARC has provided food for more than 1.3 million meals from January-October 2010.

óAt this rate we are on pace to provide over 1.62 million meals during 2010,ö said The Rev. Sarai Schnucker Rice, DMARC Executive Director. óThatø an increase of 20% more emergency food than was provided in 2009.ö

While the poor economy continues to present challenges for many families in Greater Des Moines, DMARC provides simple yet critical help through 12 emergency food pantry distribution sites in the metro area.

óPeople with limited income are making difficult choices, such as selecting medicine over food or food instead of clean diapers,ö said Rice. óDMARC is able to serve families in need thanks to generous in-kind donations of food items and thanks to cash gifts. Cash is especially important

because we can use it to purchase food from the Food Bank or wholesale, allowing us to buy about 2/3 more food for every dollar that a food donor might spend.ö

The DMARC Food Pantry network is committed to providing emergency food that is healthy, nutritious and satisfying. Virtually all distribution sites are equipped with refrigeration and/or freezer units to accommodate fresh and frozen produce, dairy and meats. In 2010, DMARC provided almost 100,000 pounds of fresh produce to pantry sites, compared with about 5,000 pounds in 2009.

While DMARC has in place a robust infrastructure to assist families who are requesting help, DMARC is asking for additional cash and in-kind donations.

- Cash donations may be donated online at the DMARC website: www.dmreligious.org
- Cash donations may also be mailed or dropped off at the DMARC central office: 3816 36th Street, Suite 202, Des Moines, Iowa 50310.
- In-kind donations may be dropped off at the DMARC central warehouse: 3816 36th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310. For a complete listing of the [most needed items, please click here](#).

The [DMARC Emergency Food Pantry network](#) is the largest in Iowa, made up of a centralized warehouse and 12 partnering distribution sites. The DMARC Emergency Food Pantry network helps meet short-term food needs when families do not have enough to eat. Once each 30 days, families can receive a free, five-day supply of nutritionally balanced food. In 2009, DMARC assisted more than 11,600 different families in the Greater Des Moines community and provided the food equivalent of nearly 1.5 million meals.

DMARC is an interfaith organization with a core membership of about 150 congregations from 10 faith traditions. DMARC exists to provide a common means of responding to basic human needs and, in so doing, offers a context for interfaith dialogue, education, fellowship and support while serving as a liaison between member congregations and the greater Des Moines community. #