**VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES – WAYS TO HELP**

**Assist Clients While Shopping:**

The Bridge Pantry distributes food by a process called “Client choice”. Client choice allows the clients to select the food they need rather than simply handed a pre-determined set of products. The quantity clients can select is determined by size of their family. As a volunteer, you will guide the client through the Food Pantry while they are shopping. You will be introduced to the client and instructed as to the quantity of goods the client can receive. You will then secure a shopping cart and assist the client during the shopping experience.

**Unloading Truck from The North Country Food Bank:**

Once a month The North Country Food Bank delivers goods ordered by The Bridge Pantry staff. Volunteers will help unload the goods and place them in the appropriate staging area. One volunteer will also be available to document that all the goods ordered were received.

**Assemble Emergency Food Boxes:**

Emergency food boxes are assembled and stored by the Cooler. These boxes are used in the event the Food Pantry is closed so clients in need can receive food before the Food Pantry opens again. There is a menu of items located on the emergency food box shelf that is used to stock the emergency boxes. The volunteer will use the menu to fill the box then tape the menu to the front end of the box when completed.

**Stocking and Organizing Shelves:**

During client shopping hours shelves, will become depleted of stock. The volunteer will secure product from the staging area and re-stock as needed. Please turn the product such that all labels are facing to the front. This not only enables the clients to quickly select what they need but also presents a professional look overall. Volunteers can also organize shelves when not assisting clients by moving stock to the front and turning product, so all labels are facing properly. It is highly desirable to rotate our stock as much as possible.

**Pick Up Donations at Local Sites:**

Each Tuesday morning a volunteer will be needed to secure any donations left in the entry of Central Market or Service Foods. The volunteer may also be required to pick up any goods ordered by the Food Pantry staff. The staff will notify the volunteer in advance if any orders were placed.

On the fourth Saturday of each month excess products from Ruby’s Pantry is donated to The Bridge Pantry. Volunteers will assist in loading the donations on a truck and then unloading them at the Food Pantry.

**Produce Drop Monitoring:**

During the growing season The Bridge Pantry participates in the Farm to Food Pantry program through the North Country Food Bank. This program provides abundant fresh produce throughout the growing season that is delivered to participating Pantries and Food Shelves once a week. This produce is provided free of charge. The volunteers will monitor the distribution, help consolidate produce as required, bag items as needed and perform some clean up.

**Mobile Food Pantry:**

Once a month we will be traveling to Ottertail, Dent, Richville and Vergas to provide the same service as at the Bridge main location. A driver with a half-ton pick-up will be needed to pull a trailer to these locations. A rider will also be needed to assist the driver at the remote location.

**Fund or Food Drives:**

Organize and conduct a food drive to benefit The Bridge Pantry. While donations of food or money are always welcomes donations during the March Campaign is particularly beneficial. Donations received during March are partially matched by Hunger Solutions, a statewide organization.

**Pantry Site Maintenance and Upkeep:**

Trimming around the building and gardens. Planting flowers in the Spring and watering/weeding as necessary. Clean the Pantry once per month. Take recycling to the recycling center etc.