



Make Room for a Food Pantry @yourlibrary: YES!



2022 ILOC Conference
Sarah Sellon
Ali Alldredge
Ely Public Library



How did it start?

April 16, 2020

Donations from teachers
classrooms and the Prairie High
School Pantry.



Ely Public Library

April 16, 2020 · 🌐

Introducing our EPL Pantry!

Thanks to a generous donation from the Prairie High School Pantry([College Community School District](#)) we have food items available for free. Our cart is in the lobby and will be filled daily until our supplies are exhausted. Stay safe and healthy!

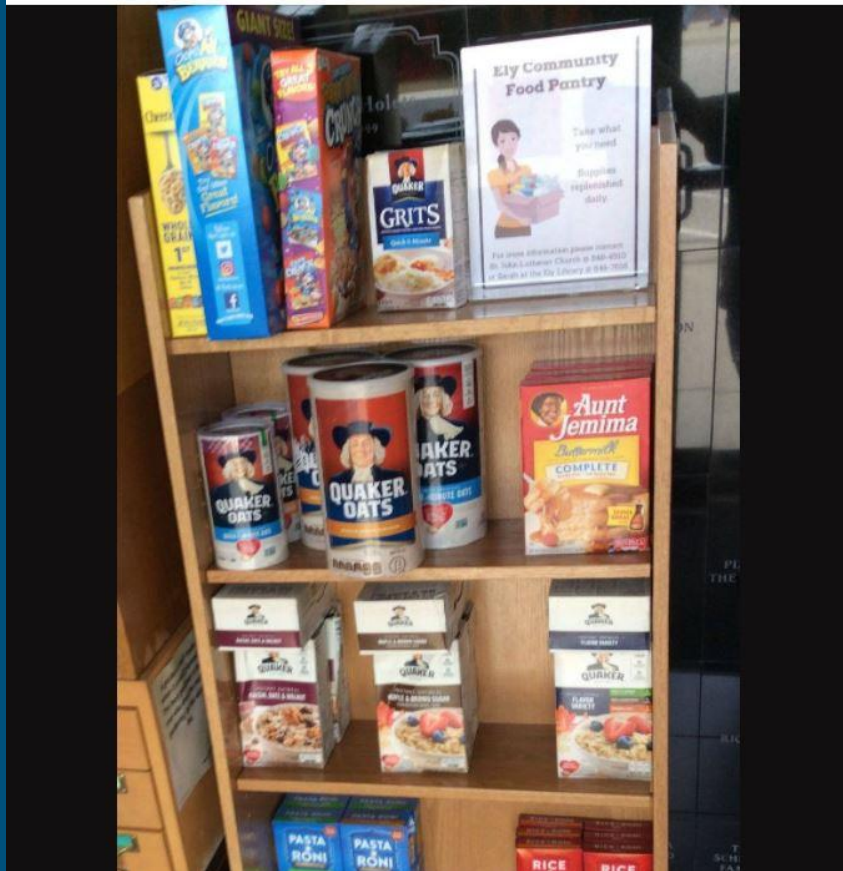




Ely Public Library

April 23, 2020 · 🌐

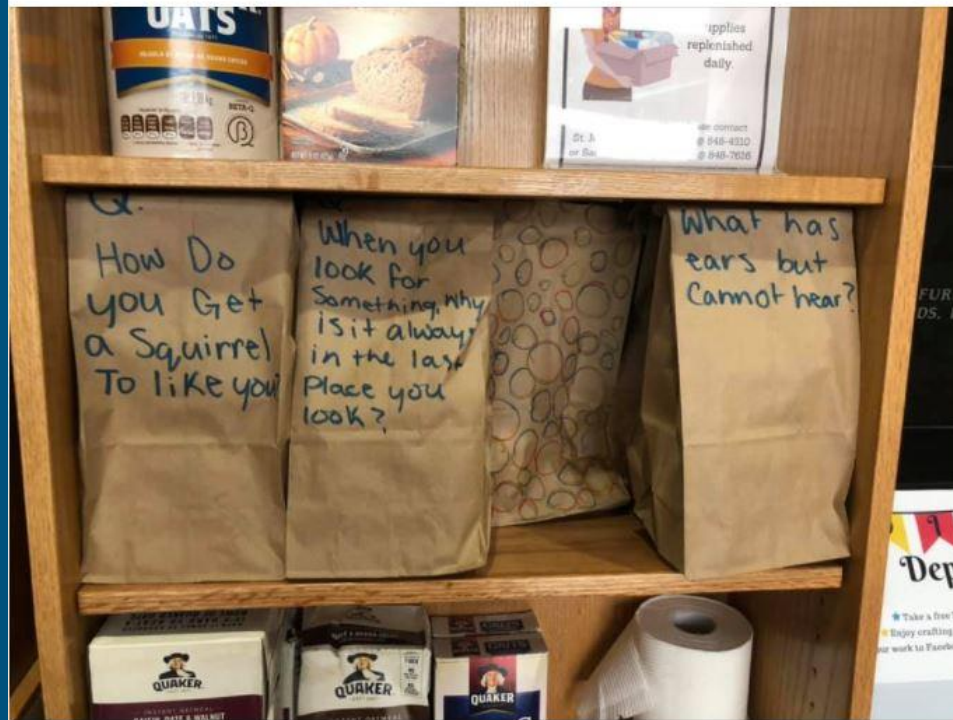
Ely Community Food Pantry located in the library lobby. Take what you need. What started as a donation from College Community School District has now grown! For more info contact Sarah at the Ely Library at 848-7616 or Pastor Brian at @StJohnLutheranChurchEly at 848-4510.



Ely Public Library

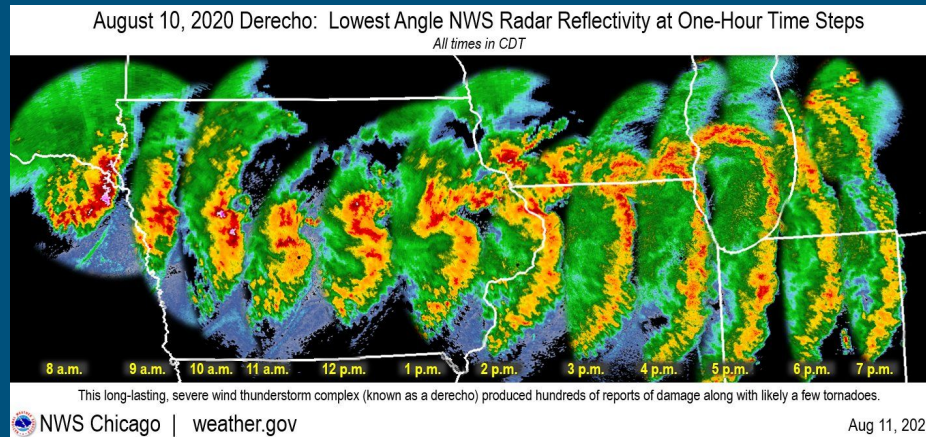
May 22, 2020 · 🌐

Thank you @GeneralMills for the snack packs available in our food pantry in the library lobby!



August 10, 2020 Derecho

On Aug 10, 2022 Eastern Iowa was hit with the derecho. People were completely without power for weeks in some areas. Local grocery stores and gas stations were also without power. Many local residents are on wells and with no power, they also lost access to water.



How can EPL help?

As soon as power was restored the library opened to provide:

- Air conditioned shelter
- Charging stations
- Phone/Internet access
- Bathrooms
- Water and food
- Open extended hours - including Sundays
- Donation Space
- Distribution Runs



Here to stay...



Ely Public Library

August 15, 2020 · 🌐

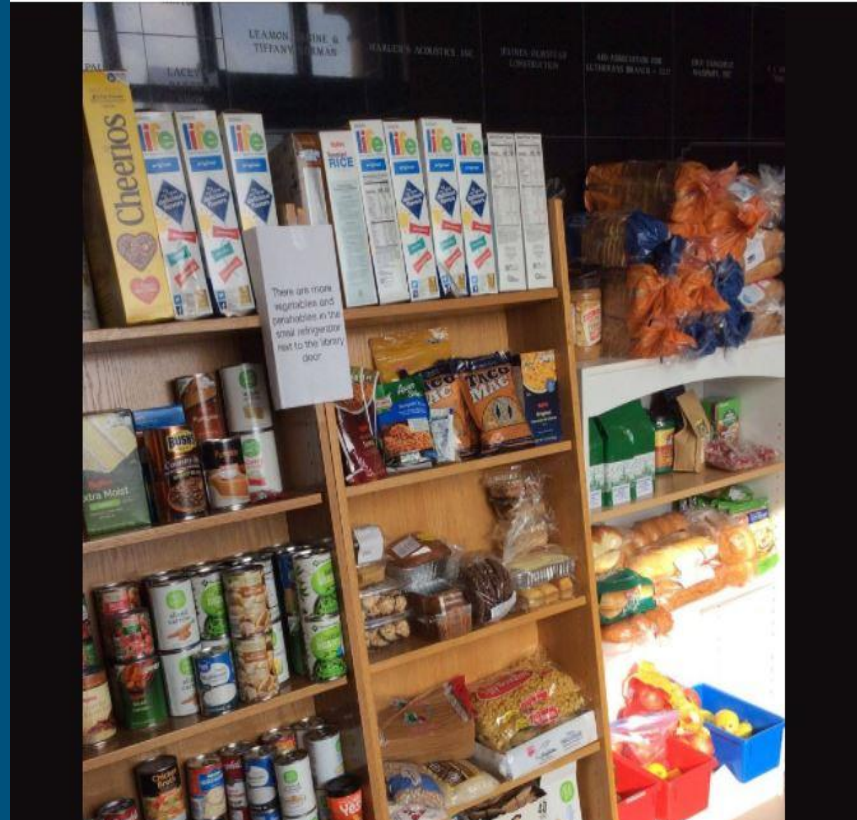
Ely Library has relief supplies: flashlights, batteries, tarps, water, non perishable food and snacks, toiletries, baby supplies and extension cords. We are open for you for WiFi, a place to cool and charge your phones. Located at 1595 Dows Street in Ely, IA 848-7616.



Ely Public Library

January 24, 2021 · 🌐

Food pantry today.





New Partnership - HACAP

Week of: 12/8/21

Knowing how many people we serve helps us get donations.

Tell us how many people are in your household **each time** you use the pantry

2	6
5	3
5	4
2	6
8	5
1	4
1	7
4	2
3	2
5	3
5	7
4	4
2	5
2	2
1	2

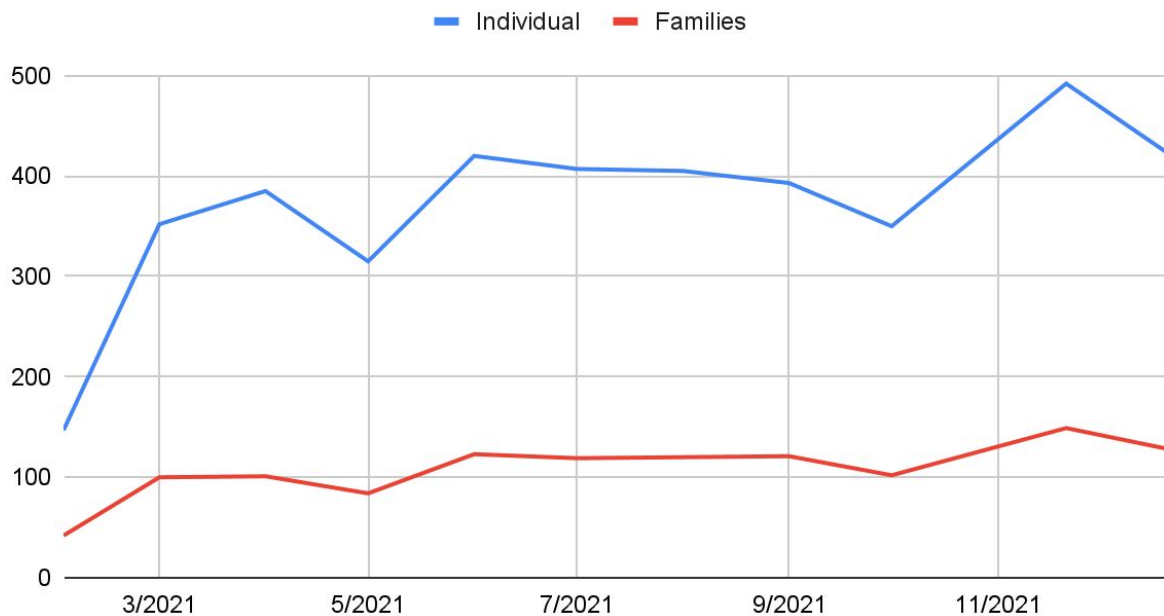
Thank you!

The Ely Public Library has now partnered with HACAP to stock the food pantry for our community. Thanks to Angie and Nolan for all the help this morning. Please take what you need. [HACAP](#) @Elylibrary



Statistics

Food Pantry Usage Per Month





Ely Public Library

May 23, 2021 · 🌐

New shelves and restocked!



How it continues... Partnerships!

Community

Casey's

Friends of EPL

General Mills

HACAP

Local grocery recovery

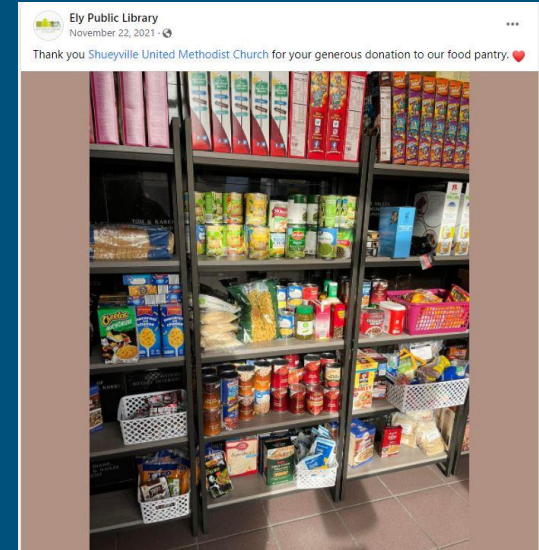
Local producers/growers

Quaker Oats

School Districts

St. John Lutheran Church

UMC of Shueyville



Why is this so successful?

- Community volunteers and partnerships
- Open 18 hours a day
- Seniors used to get resources assistance, but then COVID
- No paperwork requirement
- After hours is great for privacy
- Publicity through social media, partnerships and word of mouth
- Zero waste
- Library Programming & Educational Opportunities



Issues

- Onion skins...oh my!
- Snacks garbage
- Juggling fruit
- School/Bus/Home
- Produce/perishables past their prime
- Expired food
- Clothing/Book donations



Future plans

Grants - Witwer Community Grant

Use pantry space to spread information about other resources and programs

Advising Opportunities



Your food pantry saved us...



“We both lost our jobs during the pandemic. The pantry saved us when we had nothing else. Thank you”. *Now they give back when they can.*

“We used the pantry to make ends meet in our house and to help out my brother who was struggling by delivering food from the pantry to him. Now we donate our time as we can.”

“I was able to tell my clients about the EPL food pantry and take them there to introduce them to it. They cried when they didn’t have to show proof of need. One individual is so thankful, she wants to pay you back by volunteering.” *This patron indeed has been volunteering and is very helpful. We explained that was not necessary, but she is so thankful and proud to be able to provide this.*

Why you should say Yes!

The need is there. Even in your community.

Libraries serve their communities. Neighbors helping neighbors.

Brings people into library, thus serving a larger part of our community.

Opportunities to educate about other available passive, in-person or virtual programming.

Promoting our Seed library and growing your own food. Full circle of planting, caring, harvesting, preserving, and seed saving classes.



Contact us with any questions:

Sarah L. Sellon, Director Ely Public Library

sarah@elyiowa.com 319-848-7616

Ali Alldredge, District Volunteer Coordinator/Admin. Assistant for Community Relations

alialldredge@crprairie.org