



City of Lakeville *Positioned to Thrive*

Starting in 2010, Lakeville Liquors has hosted a food drive in the month of March for 360 Communities and The Open Door Pantry. 360 Communities, a nonprofit agency that originated in 1970, has helped over 15,000 people every year and distributed over 1.8 million pounds of food to local communities in 2020 alone. The Open Door, a nonprofit hunger relief organization, was founded in 2009 and in the past year has distributed 3.2 million pounds of food while doubling the number of clients served – serving 7,000 to 14,000 people every month.

“By fundraising for our local food shelves, the community is able to make a genuine difference in our community.” Tana Wold, Liquor Operations Director at Lakeville Liquors, describes her pride in Lakeville Liquors’ relationship with 360 Communities and The Open Door Pantry. “The resources that are generated through our fundraisers can both save and change people’s lives. I had the opportunity to tour both facilities and the experience truly opened my eyes to all the different programs our donations support. We look forward to all future fundraisers that will benefit the community of Lakeville.”

This year alone, Lakeville Liquors and their customers raised \$18,223 and 350 pounds of food, while raising a total of \$161,539 and 6,600 pounds of food over the past 11 years.

The fundraiser is deliberately held in the month of March every year as it strategically aligns with the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. This program allows both organizations to receive a percent match on top of the amount they receive from Lakeville Liquors. The match, which is calculated by determining how much food and money are raised proportional to the size of the organization, most often falls between \$6,000 and \$8,000 additional.

The money that is donated from Lakeville Liquors and their customers, combined with the percent match from the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign, is used on a need basis for both The Open Door Pantry and 360 Communities. While what is purchased may vary week to week, both organizations try to ensure that most of the monetary donations are put toward fresh, healthy and nutritious food items. In fact, both organizations are committed to ending local hunger through increasing access to healthy foods that are oftentimes unobtainable or unaffordable to those in need.

For example, The Open Door Pantry has used their funds to increase meal accessibility through a program called “The Mobile Lunchbox.” In the summer of 2017, this program was created with





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the intent of connecting school meals to children when school went out of session. The Open Door Pantry works directly with school districts to pick up and then deliver meals to neighborhoods throughout Dakota County. During the pandemic, they also helped school districts during the school year, delivering meals to students in need and those who were unable to pick up their meals. In the 2020-2021 school year, over 18,000 meals were distributed in Lakeville and over 14,000 meals were distributed in Burnsville.

Furthermore, during the summer months of 2020, The Open Door Pantry initiated a “grab and go” meal program, where students in need were able to pick up lunch (and occasionally breakfast) every Monday – Friday in their neighborhoods or apartment complex parking lots. That year, they served over 64,000 meals to children (which was 2,709 meals over the previous year’s milestone). With the addition of West St. Paul schools this year, they anticipate serving even more students in the future!

As Laurie Bolin, Director of Development at 360 communities, explains, “Lakeville Liquors March fundraiser for 360 Communities’ food shelf has a huge impact on our ability to leverage our partnership with Second Harvest Heartland and purchase healthy and nutritious food in order to provide hunger relief in our community.” So, whether it is fresh vegetables and fruits, meat or dairy, 360 Communities and The Open Door Pantry are using their funds to contribute to a healthier, happier community.

While the March fundraiser is primarily targeted to raise awareness about food insecurity and the means to battle it, both organizations recognize the overarching impact that creating food security can have on the entire community. From ensuring that people remain housed to knowing that they have the energy to properly function at work or at school – creating food security and stability transcends into other areas of one’s life.



All else aside, 360 Communities and The Open Door Pantry would not be able to make such significant strides throughout Dakota county without Lakeville Liquors’ customers’ continual support.

Jason Viana, Executive Director of the Open Door Pantry, stressed the gratitude they hold for Lakeville Liquors, especially after such a tumultuous and unpredictable year. “Their choice to invest in our mission, to trust our team and to believe in our clients gave us everything we



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needed to respond bigger and bolder. Their gifts gave our team the freedom to lean into their creativity and find new, safe ways to make food available in more ways than ever before.”

As Lakeville Liquors continues to support both 360 Communities and The Open Door Pantry for years to come, the local communities and those within them will feel the effects of the hard work, time and generosity that was dedicated to make Dakota County a better place to live.