

HISTORY OF EDEN NORTH COLLINS FOOD PANTRY.

In December 2006 the Eden Ecumenical Food Pantry closed its doors at the Eden United Methodist Church, leaving a void for people in need of food. A meeting was held in September 2006 to discuss the possibility of opening a satellite to Operation Good Neighbor in North Evans. Informational meetings were held at various churches. Father John Kwiecien agreed to host the facility at Holy Spirit Church in North Collins. Dan and Maureen Woyton volunteered to be directors with Don and Rosella Schasel as co-directors. Eden North Collins Operation Good Neighbor opened the doors to the public on January 3, 2007 with weekly distribution of food. We started with 30 families transferred from North Evans. There were approximately 40 volunteers. By December 2007 there were 115 families registered and 68 volunteers.

Each week food was transported from North Evans to North Collins by volunteers using their private vehicles. Contacts were made with local stores and produce stands to pick up unsalable items each week. Shopping carts were donated by various stores. Shelves and freezers were purchased with donated money. Food drives were held by local churches, scouts, post offices and schools.

As we grew it became cumbersome to be a satellite of North Evans. After several meetings with representatives of the Food Bank of Western New York, it was decided to become an independent organization. The Eden North Collins Food Pantry was formed on October 12, 2008. This will serve the five zip codes of Eden, North Collins, Collins, Collins Center and Lawtons. A board of directors and officers were elected. The treasurer worked with a lawyer to establish a 501c3 account, by-laws and Mission statement. Various grants were applied for and received.

In 2011 we served a total of 5081 people with an average of 423 per month. We provided a total of 95,729 meals to 1870 households.