

Ruby A Flodin
1911-2000
She taught us
that people are worth
more than things!



Ruby's Pantry has a rich heritage as a community outreach program of Home and Away Ministries, Inc., a 501 C 3 non-profit corporation.

- In 1999 a vision was cast to help struggling poor neighborhood churches in Mexico
- In 2003 approval from the Internal Revenue service as a 501C3 non profit corp.
- In 2004 trucks and vans were donated to pick up food and distribute it locally
- In 2005 an 11,000 sq ft building was acquired in North Branch, MN that would become our main distribution Center and offices.
- In 2005 Food Distributions were started
- In 2006 reefer trucks were added
- In 2009 a semi truck was added
- In 2009 a 14,000 sq ft distribution center was added in Waupaca, WI
- In 2009 business offices moved to Pine City, MN
- In 2009 an 11,000 sq ft facility was added in Siren, WI and houses a food shelf, thrift store and distribution center
- In 2010 three more semi tractors were added, 1 in 2011 and 2 in 2012
- In 2012 we moved to a 19,000 sq ft building in Waupaca
- In 2012 a 40,000 sq ft Ministry Center was added in Luck, WI
- In 2013 two more semi tractors were added to the 7 tractors.

TODAY... Home and Away Ministries has 30 paid staff, 5 facilities, 46 monthly distributions and approaching 1,000,000 pounds of food per month.

We are blessed!

We have been blessed!

Mission Statement

To procure and distribute corporate surplus food and goods to help fight poverty, hunger and disease in rural communities for those with low resources and in crisis through churches, food shelves and other local civic organizations. To develop the "Blessing Box" concept to activate people in being alert to the needs of others and to be proactive in encouraging, showing friendship and meeting tangible needs of struggling neighbors, friends and strangers, regardless of race, religion or ethnicity.



Training

We are in contact with distribution leaders; always striving to teach the best ways to direct traffic, proper food handling and the sharing of kind words of encouragement to people who often carry a heavy load.



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There may be a time
when you cannot

GET...HELP

But there is never a time
when you cannot

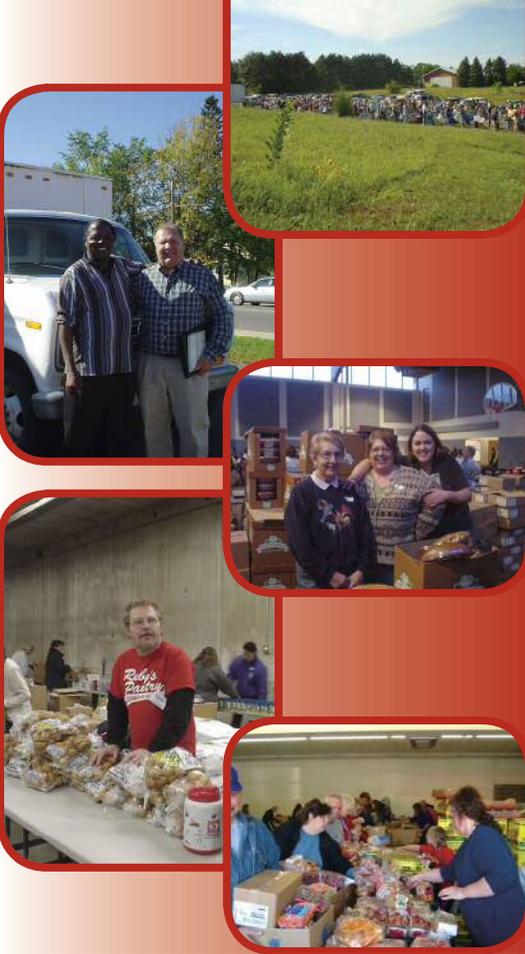
GIVE...HELP

Feeding Rural America



An Opportunity For Dignity

A hand up, not a hand out



A Community Event

As hundreds of people gather in churches, garages, outside, civic centers or wherever, they have one thing in common—they are gathering to get food at a Ruby's Pantry Food Distribution! With a helping hand, the people gather with a feeling of dignity and enjoy the friends they meet and continue to see.

Food Sources

Building relationships with manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and other non-profit agencies has been the key to sourcing food. Whether it be a pallet or semi-loads, our food donors have come to depend on our ability to pick up their surplus in a timely manner, at their convenience.

The relationship between our donors is a win-win situation! Surplus inventory or "mistakes" are quickly removed from their warehouse, making room for new product, creating tax incentives and eliminating disposal costs.

For Ruby's Pantry, it supplies food—the life line of our organization. That food provides a nutritious helping hand to nearly 30,000 individuals per month. The best place to store food is in people's stomachs!

Transportation

Ruby's Pantry first food donation was picked up in the back of a Ford pickup. From there, we were donated a 1978 Ford Cube Van, then a 1997 Chevy Cube Van and then a 1993 Ford F7000 diesel straight truck. Today we run nine semi tractors and twenty reefer trailers, five straight trucks and a number of other vehicles used for organizational needs.

Our transportation department coordinates pickups from food donors and also deliveries to our distributions sites.

Our drivers are all properly licensed and trained. We have a combination of drivers who are paid staff and volunteers. But they all have one thing in common, they have a passion for helping people. Helping people never gets old... to those being helped!

Distribution

Food distributions are done on various days throughout the week. Some Saturdays, you will find food distributions taking place in as many as six different communities. Currently we do monthly distributions in 46 locations throughout rural northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. Our distributions can vary in participation, from 200 to 800 families. For an extremely large distribution, it requires two semi loads of food.

Our driver and often another staff member are at the distribution sites from start to finish assisting the local volunteer leaders. Most distribution sites have at least 50 volunteers to help with passing out and carrying out food to participant's cars. Participants leave with an abundance of food. It is a good thing!

Program

Our program is simple. We are not government funded and a majority of our operating costs are derived directly from those who participate in the program. Each participant is asked to donate \$20 to defray these costs. Truly it gives people an opportunity for dignity.

Of the \$20 donation, \$18.00 goes directly to Ruby's Pantry for operational costs and \$2.00 remains in the local community to be used for benevolence. This is generally administered by the local hosting church. It is often used for emergency help to local families including utilities, gas cards and personal care items, including diapers.

If people don't have a donation? The host church often tries to have certificates available where an organization has made the donation. No one is turned away without food.

HOPE



Ruby's Pantry

Since 2003