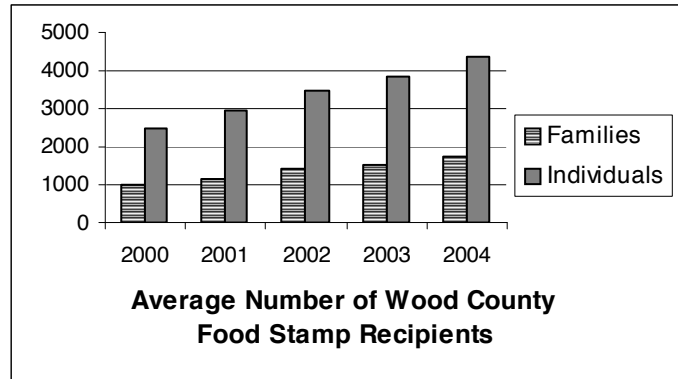


Fighting Hunger: A Top Priority for some Wood County Services



Key Facts

There are seven main food pantries located in Wood County:

- South Wood County Emergency Pantry Shelf (SWEPS)-Wisconsin Rapids
- Pittsville Area Neighbors Shelf (PANS)-Pittsville
- SS Peter and Paul-Wisconsin Rapids
- Soup or Socks-Marshfield
- St. Vincent DePaul-Marshfield
- South Wood County Family Resource Center-Wisconsin Rapids
- Christian Life Fellowship-Port Edwards

Why is this Information Important?

Food is a basic need, a staple for sustaining human life. Struggling to keep food on the table for oneself and one's family diminishes the quality of life. Providing services that feed the hungry is a top priority in Wood County.

Wood County Support

The community of Wood County works to show support for area families struggling with hunger. Large food pantry drives are held several times throughout the year. The Neighborhood Table is a relatively new Wood County meal program that serves an average of 350-400 people each of the last three Thursdays of every month.

Food Stamps are available to Wood County families through the Food Share Wisconsin program through Wood County Social Services. The number of Wood County households using food stamps has more than doubled since the year 2000 (from a monthly average of 987 households in 2000 to a monthly average of 2,078 in 2005).

Wood County also provides the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program. Since 2001, over 11,750 Wood County residents have received help from this service.

Sources: Wood County Departments of Social Services and Health; United Way First Call 211; area Food Pantries; the Neighborhood Table