

Joshua's Storehouse Needs to Expand Its Capacity to Help the Needy

In the year 2012, Joshua's Storehouse donated 460,355 pounds of food to 21,773 people, of whom 1,040 were new to the program. Donated hours were 16,356, and, at the rate of \$10.00 per hour, \$163,560 worth of time was donated back to the Citizens and City of Casper. This represents a 10.3% increase over 2011. To date in 2013, the percentage of increase in Clients needing food assistance is up by another 10%, and we don't see any relief in sight.

Joshua's purchases food by the case, and in some weeks it's necessary to do five trips to a store or the Food Bank in order to keep the food supply up with the need.

Joshua's Storehouse is a 100% pure charity. That means that 100% of the money donated goes to the purchase of food and the upkeep of the program. There is no paid staff at Joshua's Storehouse. We do not receive any Federal or State money at all to help to fund the entirely free food distribution program at Joshua's. Monies are donated by the Citizens of Casper helping the Citizens of Casper. Charity donations and grants from individuals, businesses, local civic organizations, clubs, school student organizations, foundations, trusts, and churches all help to fund our continuing operations. God bless them all!

We are undertaking a building project to meet our greatly increased storage needs, which are driven by the expanding needs of the community. We are working with contractors who may be able to donate a portion of their labor, expertise, and materials out of the goodness of their hearts.

The reasons why our Building Project is needed are compelling. Purchasing food by the case is good for a home, but not for a high-volume food-bank like Joshua's Storehouse, which serves an extremely large Client-base. Purchasing goods by the pallet is far cheaper in the long-run, and Joshua's is here for the long-run. At this time, space is at a premium and increasingly large amounts of food cannot be stored. The ever-increasing demand for food is far greater than our current capacity to store it.

Because of this, trips to purchase and gather food are frequent and create a handling and logistics problem. A new storage building will be attached to the present west side of the existing facility, located at 334 South Wolcott Street, between Midwest and Collins. This central location is in the middle of the Downtown area and is convenient for our rapidly-swelling Client-base. The cost of the addition is unknown at this time, however, it is estimated that it will be in excess of \$250,000 (two-hundred fifty-thousand dollars).

We are excited to get this crucially-needed project started, as it will help the hungry of Casper and also give Joshua's Storehouse a very solid foundation for continuing to serve the hungry among the Citizens of Casper in the future.

People interested in learning more about Joshua's Storehouse, or in taking a tour of our current facilities as a way of demonstrating to themselves the absolute necessity for this project should please call 265-0242 or come see us at 334 South Wolcott Street, Casper, WY 82601.