

2018 Kiwanis International Signature Project Submission

1. First and last name of person submitting project description **Gordon Kotab**
2. Your email address
3. Your mailing address
4. Name of district **Minnesota-Dakotas District**
5. First and last name of district governor **Dan Leikvold**
6. Name of club owning the signature project **Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club**
7. First and last name of club president **Duane Boy**
8. Club president's email address
9. Name of signature project **Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry**
10. Has the district governor approved the submission of this project? Yes No
11. Describe the project. Is it a service project, fundraiser or event (such as a large event that is not a fundraiser or service project)? **The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry is a community food source for those who are less fortunate. It is a building filled with wholesome nutritious foods that are obtainable by those who are in need. The Food Pantry is serviced by our Kiwanis members and other community volunteers.**
12. Describe the community need being met through the project. Was a community assessment completed to determine the need? How was the need discovered? [Please complete all questions using 200 words or less] **For many years there were assessments and surveys done in the community and the lack of a regular food source for the needy was ALWAYS at the top of the list. Through numerous unsuccessful attempts to provide the community with a permanent and consistent food supply, Kiwanis took possession of the project in 1992. The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry meets the needs of the community by providing food for nearly 245 families each month and has done so consistently for the last several years. In 2017 the pantry averaged 244 families per month. In 2016 the average was 243 and in 2015 the average was 245 families per month.**
13. Describe the population being served by the project. Please be as specific as possible and define the age group served and number of people served or helped. **The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry serves low income families with ages ranging from infants to seniors. In 2017 the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry consistently provided food for approximately 244 families each month. A**

total of 4,834 needy family members were provided with food during 2017.

14. How does the project benefit children? The Food pantry provides nutritious food for families to prepare healthy meals. All family members, especially children, benefit from healthy meals. As a result of healthy meals, children develop mentally and physically which improves learning. Our volunteers provide recipes and suggestion for preparing healthy meals.

15. How many people attended the project? In the last three years 8790 families were provided food by the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry.

16. How many people were served or helped? In the last three years 13,256 family members received a nutritious meal as a result of our service project.

17. How many Kiwanis members participated? Twenty-one Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club members participate in our project each month. Five or Six members participate each day that the Food Pantry is open.

18. Is the project recurring? If it was the first time, is it planned to be recurring? If so, describe its frequency (annual, monthly, every other year, etc.). Yes, the project is recurring. The project has been ongoing since 1992. The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

19. Are there Kiwanis partners involved in the project? If so, which partners and what is their role? There are no Kiwanis partners.

20. Are there other partners (outside of Kiwanis International's official partners) involved in the project? If so, which partners and what is their role? Yes, we have many partners: The John T. Vucerevich Foundation, Indian Motorcycle of Sturgis, Sturgis Alliance of Churches, The City of Sturgis, Meade County Housing, Meade County, Community Action Program, Lynn's Dakota Mart, Grocery Mart, First Interstate Bank, Scott Petersons, Hersrud's of Sturgis, Meade County Schools, Sacrison Paving and The Sturgis Chamber of Commerce.

21. Describe how the Kiwanis brand is promoted throughout the project. We have news releases, TV, Public fundraisers and visibility of our Food Pantry building. The name "Sturgis KIWANIS Food Pantry" is indicative to those who travel through our doors that the local Kiwanis Club is the sponsor of this worthwhile community project.

22. How is the project promoted? The Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry is promoted by local organizations and leaders who are in contact with persons who are seeking food assistance. They include church leaders, Meade County Housing, and Meade County Court House, to name a few. In addition, the Club has two fundraisers each year.

23. Describe the media coverage your project received. The project is promoted through community fundraisers, grants newsletters, news releases, TV interviews, and Chamber of Commerce and Church bulletins.

24. How many social media shares were made? **The Sturgis Golden K Kiwanis Club does maintain a Facebook page. Several posts from the Facebook page have been shared.**
25. How does the project attract new members? **Several new members have stated that they joined the Club as a result of learning, via local television or newspaper articles, about the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry project. Many have stated that they wanted to be a part of this worthwhile, giving project.**
26. How many new members were gained through the project? **At least six new members joined the club as a direct result of the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry project. The club has gained new members for the last several years because of the Food Pantry Project.**
27. What is the total cost of the project (if applicable). **Not Applicable.**
28. What is the per-member cost of the project? (if applicable: total cost divided by total membership number). **Not Applicable.**
29. What is the per-member amount of funds raised by the project? (if applicable: total profit divided by total membership number). **Not Applicable.**
30. What are the total funds raised by the project (if applicable). **Not Applicable**
31. Did members of any Service Leadership Programs clubs participate? **Yes, members of the AKtion Club, K-Kids, Builders Club and Key Club participate in our food drives.**
32. Please add any additional comments in support of the project.
Up to 5 supporting documents can be uploaded, including media coverage, event flyers, photographs, etc. See the five (5) attached pictures and articles.



DEB HOLLAND PHOTOS, MEADE COUNTY TIMES-TRIBUNE STAFF
Roy Plymale stacks the shelves at the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Bank Monday. Volunteers were making room for the food that will come in this weekend during the annual food drive. Citizens are asked to place their food items in the blue bags and leave them outside Saturday morning.

FEEDING THE NEED IN STURGIS

DEB HOLLAND
Meade County Times-tribune staff

The wind whipped new fallen snow across the parking lot at the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry in Sturgis Monday.

But that didn't deter clients from arriving at the pantry and choosing their allotted food supply for the month.

As Marcy, a 30-something mom, moved about the scaled-down grocery store, she chose items she knew her teenage children would eat.

"When you're down and out and have children, you can go without, but your kids can't," she said. "This place is such a blessing."

Theresa Looby has been the director of the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Bank for the past five years.

She says there continues to be a need for food from the food bank.

"We have a lot of people who are out of work. We have a lot of single families and a lot of seniors that are on a fixed income," she said.

Those who receive goods from the food bank must be income eligible and apply through the Meade County Housing Authority.

Saturday is the annual Sturgis Kiwanis Food Drive in Sturgis.

"I'd like to thank people for their continued support in helping us serve the community," Looby said.

Volunteers will begin picking up blue bags with food donations beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Citizens are asked to place their food donation in the blue bag and place on their door step or close to their mail box on Saturday, Dec. 10 after 9 a.m.

A note containing suggested food items and other information was placed in each blue grocery bag left on local doorsteps last Saturday.

With the help of the Sturgis Fire



Bill Atyeo checks the list of locations he and other volunteers were to leave blue bags. The groups of volunteers gathered at the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church before heading out Saturday. Other volunteers with Atyeo are Jase and Jake Canaday and Warren Burke.

Department, residents will be notified when volunteers will begin picking up donated food bags by sounding their siren all around town. Residents will hear a siren coming from Fire Department vehicles driving around town and this will be the signal that the pickup has started.

If it would be more convenient, cash donations are also appreciated and can be mailed to Kiwanis Food Pantry, P.O. Box 4136, Sturgis, SD 57785 or dropped off at the Kiwanis Food Pantry.

Community volunteers run the

Suggested donations

Dry foods: Mac & Cheese, Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, breakfast cereal, cake mixes, pasta, crackers and dried beans.

Canned meats: Beef stew, hash,

tuna, salmon, Spam, chicken, lasagna and beef ravioli.

Canned items: Soups, chili, tomatoes, fruit, ketchup, mustard and mayo.

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FOOD DRIVE

nets 6,500 pounds of food

Deb Holland

Meade County Times-Tribune staff

The annual Sturgis food drive garnered about 6,500 pounds of food this year.

That's about 1,500 pounds more than last year. And organizers say the beautiful weather had a lot to do with the outcome.

Last year cold weather meant the pick up of blue bags was moved back one week.

Rich Deaver with the Sturgis Kiwanis said that meant people forgot to put their bag out.

But not this year. The food pick up was a great success, he said.

And the food that is collected makes such a difference in the lives of people in need, Deaver said.

He shared a story about a young man, his girlfriend and their young baby. The young man came into the food bank last

week and said he just needed enough food to get his family through until payday on Friday.

Deaver said the man was humble and asked for very little.

"He's employed, but the first payday hadn't happened yet. They were completely out of food. We checked to make sure he qualified and were able to give

» Food drive, A

» From A1

Food drive

them 18 pounds of food."

The food bank still will take donations. There are drop boxes at the Sturgis Public Library, Lynn's Dakota Mart and ShopKo.

The food bank will close on Dec. 22 at 11:45 a.m. and not open again until Jan. 5.

During that time, they will move to their new location near the Sturgis Community Center.

Jase and Jake Canaday, Korbin Meland and Arvid Meland stand near the scale at the Sturgis Kiwanis Food Bank after bringing in their bags of food.

Leo Comperatore, Jordan Bertalot, Gabrielle Bertalot and Brandy Nikkila made pickups of food from neighborhoods in south Sturgis.





Deb Holland photos, Meade County Times-Tribune staff

Theresa Looby, Sturgis Kiwanis Food Pantry manager, cuts the ribbon for the new pantry Thursday.

FOOD PANTRY HOSTS OPEN HOUSE

The Sturgis Kiwanis Food member and volunteer Pantry hosted a large crowd for its ribbon cutting and open house Thursday. The new facility, just west of the Sturgis Community Center, annually distributes food to about 2,500 needy. The food pantry fills a critical need for many in the Sturgis area distributing upwards of 50,000 pounds of food each year, says Kiwanis member DeWayne Hayes. Kiwanis member and volunteer Gordon Kotab said having the new facility is such a relief because of the safety concerns of the old location in the basement of the Sturgis Armory. The pantry, which was made possible by a \$100,000 grant from the John T. Vucurevich Foundation, is open from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Sturgis Golden K collects 5 tons of food for needy persons

The new Sturgis Golden K Club under the leadership of Ray Lucan, former Minn-Dak. Governor, collected 5 tons of food for Meade County needy families Dec. 9, 1989.

The club sponsored, planned and orchestrated Sturgis Community Cupboard Food Drive which centered in Sturgis the county-seat.

Ray organized the whole community, using National Guard trucks, Box Elder Job Corps corpsmen, and women, local high school and middle school youth, and nearly all of the 35 members of the Golden K Club. "The cooperation and participation," said Ray, "was tremendous."

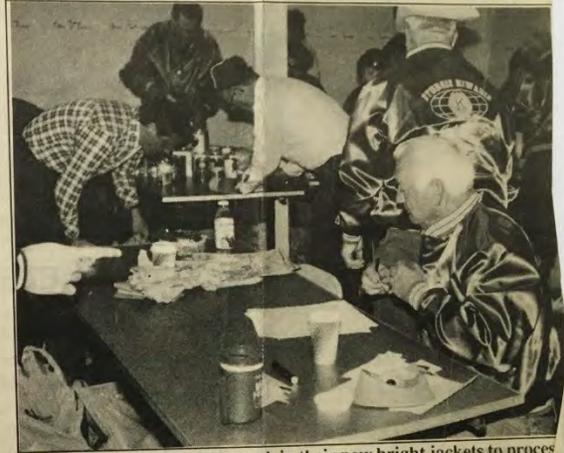
The local newspaper sent out plastic Care and Share bags to 5000 homes in its Wednesday edition before the drive. Pickups went door

to door the morning of the drive and picked up the sacks of food contributed by residents.

Merchant pickup centers collected food brought by customers. The drive started at 10 a.m. and by 2 p.m. all the food had been sorted, boxed and prepared for the community cupboard distribution.

Just before Christmas, 180 boxes of food were given to needy families. The rest of the food will be distributed to needy families as they come to the center in the United Methodist Church. Church staff members handle the distribution. Plans are already under way by Lucan and the club for next year's drive.

The club is growing under the leadership of President Clifford Kenoyer.



Sturgis Kiwanis members work in their new bright jackets to process ton of food for Meade County needy families.