

# ACBC NEWSLETTER

July 2018

ACBC Food Shelf is an independent (non-Government) organization established to serve all persons in need in the cities of Anoka, Andover, Coon Rapids, Nowthen, Ramsey, and part of Champlin. Our food shelf depends upon the generosity of individuals, businesses, churches, schools, and other organizations in our area.



## A Fresh New Look to Welcome Families!

ACBC has been made-over! **Thank you, thank you, thank you** to the many volunteers who spent their weekends with us this spring, ACBC has had a huge makeover and it looks great! In April we re-painted the store and lobby walls. June 1<sup>st</sup>, we took the store apart and put it back together again, differently! We kept the same amount of shelving but now have it in 2 units instead of 3, and changed the shelving direction leaving the store much more open. We added bright, colorful pictures to the store. We also added wainscoting to the front lobby walls and bought new-to-ACBC chairs to replace our very old, falling apart chairs! The overall effect is welcoming and spacious.

Through our partnership with SuperShelf, ACBC received help from consultants to think differently about what staple food items we stock in the food shelf and how we spend our food budget. They also assisted us in re-categorizing food that we carry in ways that make more sense. Previously, families had generally 31 categories to make choices from in the store, now there are 16. Through the reorganization, many of those 31 choices were combined into fewer categories: canned tomatoes are no longer a separate choice from canned vegetables, rice and pasta are now the same category, etc. The overall effect is that families have a greater ability to choose the foods that their families eat. Thanks to this re-thinking, ACBC has been able to shift our ordering habits to include the commonly requested foods from the survey taken in December. Some of the biggest changes include ordering whole wheat bread instead of white, always stocking essentials like flour and cooking oil, and expanding the amount of fresh produce we are able to offer families.

Thank you again to all of our volunteers and community supporters for helping us through this transition time. Many hours were put in making these changes, and helping our customers adjust to the new store layout! We are confident these changes will make for better service to the families we serve.

**After:**



**Before:**



