

St Peter Food Access Network Provides Produce and Transportation Solutions



Fresh Food Fridays in St. Peter came about as the St Peter Food Shelf in conjunction with the St. Peter Food Access Network accepted the opportunity to offer a fresh produce program throughout the summer. The St. Peter Food Access Network is a group of concerned organizations and community members that also worked hard to create a special bus route on the day of distributions to eliminate transportation barriers. Part of the Network's vision statement includes providing easy and equitable access to fresh, local, affordable, healthy and culturally appropriate food to their community.

Two grants were received from the Mankato Clinic Foundation and [Nicollet County SHIP](#) that allowed the group to pay for up a special bus loop around the long city to pick up people where they live. Tents, tables, posters, sandwich board signs and flyers were also bought with these grants to help sustain the distributions in future years. The events take place in a large church parking lot close to low income housing. The community responded with volunteers signing up from the area health care centers, school teachers and churches.

The St. Peter Food Access Network's Free Food Friday committee are made up of people from the following agencies: Nicollet County Public Health, River's Edge Hospital & Clinic, The Mankato Clinic -St. Peter, the [St. Peter Food Shelf](#), [The Kitchen](#) (emergency meal program), [University of MN Extension SNAP-ED](#), St. Peter First Lutheran Church (events are held in their parking lot), [Nicollet County SHIP](#), and staff from Second Harvest's [SNAP Outreach](#) and Agency Relations teams.

Also, as a Fresh Produce Distribution Partnership grant recipient, St Peter Food Shelf received financial and resource support from Second Harvest Heartland. Food shelves receiving the grant agree to do six produce distributions throughout the summer, with a targeted outreach to people with limited access to fresh food.