

Pipestone County Food Shelf Increases Access

The [Pipestone County Food Shelf](#) in far Southwest Minnesota is a good example of a partner that has been improving and growing its service over the past several years. When Roger Raschke retired from the bank and took the reins of the food shelf, he saw a vast need for a better-quality food shelf. He found a better building, formed a working board, organized volunteer flow, converted to client choice, incorporated healthy fruits and vegetables into the shopping mix and offered multiple visits to pick up bread and produce each week. The Pipestone County Food Shelf increased the number of households served by 20% in five years.

When [SuperShelf](#) offered grants to food shelves that wanted to offer welcoming and respectful environments to access healthy food, Roger applied and was accepted. The food shelf recently underwent the “transformation” to SuperShelf in September. SuperShelf provided funding to make the changes needed: paint, clean, provide new shelving & signs and a new cooler. ([Read the article in the Pipestone Star here.](#))

Second Harvest’s Strengthening the Network grant provided funding for something Roger had always wanted to do: upgrade from paper to electronic registration and data keeping. This grant gave the food shelf the funding for a floor scale, computer, signature pad, internet and an electronic client data tracking system.

“The registration form and the sign in sheet will be right on the computer and all signatures will be saved electronically,” said Roger, “it’s going to be wonderful!”