

THANK YOU NOTES



Stories of Connectional Giving

www.iaumc.org/tyn

FOOD PANTRY, FIRST UMC, NORTH LIBERTY

“Our church had responded years ago to requests for food by starting a small pantry,” writes Judy McRoberts, “but in 2002 the walk-in closet could no longer hold all the food we needed. So we decided to build an outbuilding and use a portion of the space to start a full pantry where people could come several times a week and get food.

“Matthew 25 funds helped us keep up with the amazing growth — from 30 visits to the pantry per month in early 2004 to over 400 visits per month in 2009. Last year we distributed over 122,000 pounds of food and 7,000 pieces of clothing.

“But money and numbers aren't the whole story. We have been able create a program that is a collaboration between our church and the community, a full partnership in which we provide about one third of the funds, volunteers, and board. This allows us not only to serve those in need, but to build relationships between people of faith and our larger community. At the same time we can help people understand poverty and see those in need as individuals and neighbors.

“God has lead us keep to our plan of 'neighbors helping neighbors.' The money we received in apportionment dollars from Matthew 25 provided the seed that has made it possible.” Visit www.nlmethodist.org to learn more.



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