
 @taketwohygienepantry

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2023, PHEW!

We've been helping people for four years now and we are blown away at the support! This little pantry started as a nudge from God and is now helping over 75 households a month with their personal hygiene needs. We have so much to be grateful and plan for looking into 2024. We made a little newsletter to share our hopes, dreams, and failures with all of you, our supporters.

We are unique because over 75% of our volunteers are Seymour Church high school students who make up our Youth Council. These are students who are involved in a myriad of extra-curriculars yet make time to do this pantry each month. They are thoughtful, empathetic, kind, hilarious, and generous teens. They bring joy to each other and to our guests each month. If you ever get to witness them in action, you'll see what I mean! We also have a fantastic set of registration gurus each month—Pam and Connie have learned the names and faces of our regular guests and make everyone who walks in our doors feel like they belong. We also have a handful of previous Youth Council high school students (now college students who were part of our charter group of students) who participate when they are available and their post-high studies and careers allow.

In November, I tasked the Youth Council with choosing a theme Bible verse for Take Two – the overwhelming majority chose Hebrews 13:16 (t) "Don't forget to do good. Don't forget to share with others. God is pleased with those kinds of offerings." The part of this verse that really sticks out to me is the "don't forget to share with others" piece. One of the main points I try to send home is What Would Jesus Do? Genuinely, what would He do? Take Two strives to be like Jesus and do what he would do...and to us that's giving people dignity in a world that works so hard to take it away.

Director: Mel Solle
Asst. Director: Kaylyn Nijkamp
Volunteers: Pam, Connie, Joel

Youth Council Members: Ava, BJ, Bryan, Emmett, John, Lillian, Lily, Maddie, Malia, Mollie, Sofie, Will and Zach

Youth Council Alumni: Abbe, Carly, Garrett, Jack, Josie, Kate, Megan, Noah, Renee, Rowan, and Sarah

Friends, we are four years in and see our footprint in the Greater Grand Rapids and Kent County area continuing to grow. We, by the grace and goodness of God, plan to continue providing help, dignity, confidence, and genuine joy to the people in our community.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we take on 2024!

Mel Solle, Director

2023 Highlights

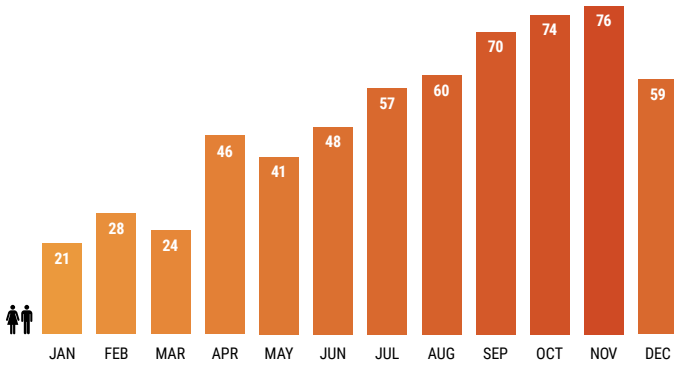
- Establishing a new partnership with Hased Community Church in Detroit, MI.
- Ongoing partnership with Alger Middle School.
- Securing a \$1000 grant from Classis Grand Rapids East.
- Successful Toile-Tree donation drive with over 1,021 products contributed.
- Achieving the largest Youth Council participation since our start in 2020.

Generosity Highlights

- 13** High school student volunteers
- 589** Reusable Take Two bags given away
- 604** Families supported
- 1134** Pads and tampons given away
- 1054** Chapsticks given away
- 1487** Body wash and bar soap given away
- 10,211** Items distributed from May to December

Caring For Our Community

We have experienced amazing growth this year. Our community has heard about us, mainly from word of mouth, and they come from all over Kent County.



This chart illustrates the growth of the Take Two program. Last year we had a total of 485 individuals participating and a total of 21,600 hygiene products donated.

Did You Know?

We give over 1,800 hygiene products to our community each month! As you know, inflation has led to an increase in product prices. Products formerly priced at \$3.00, now hover around \$5.00. Despite its harsh impact, our pantry has played a vital role in easing these effects on our community. Your monetary contributions will support our ongoing efforts to mitigate the financial burden for households.

Upcoming in 2024

We expect new supporters, including local small businesses, personal friends who share our vision in spreading the joy of helping others. Also, we've had conversations with the Kent County Health Department about partnering with the Refugee Resettlement aspect of their agency. This is a different direction than we ever imagined, but we are eager to give dignity to everyone and are looking forward to seeing what this potential partnership looks like.

Donations, Costs & 2024 Forecast:

- \$24,800** – Financial Donations (2023)
- \$24,500** – Product Costs
- \$00,000** – Volunteer Help!
- \$40,000** – Forecasted Costs (2024)*

*Due to the increased community growth and inflation, we anticipate significant increase in cost for 2024.

Contact Information:

Attn: Take Two
Seymour Christian Reformed Church
840 Alger St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Toile-Tree Drive Success!

We, along with Seymour Church partnered with Grand Rapids City High School and Cascade Fellowship Church to gather hygiene products for Advent. Thank you for the generous support! We collected 1,021 products! What a wonderful start to the new year.



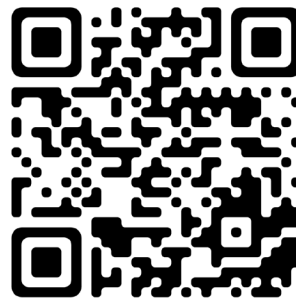
Why Invest in Take Two?

Do you recall during the initial months of COVID when there was a massive run on toilet paper because of fears of running out. Imagine that feeling every single month with regard to hygiene items, particularly period products. One of the things that makes us unique is we try to give people two of every item category (we have 13 categories). This is particularly difficult and expensive, but allows people to feel like they aren't going to run out. Ironically, having an extra box of tampons on your shelf gives you confidence.

We are always seeking partnerships for our 24/7 pantry boxes or various donation campaigns. If you're interested in supporting us, email us: taketwo@seymourchurch.org

Support Us:

Make a Donation through Seymour's website[†]



Short URL Address:
rb.gy/h1alwo

Buy Hygiene Products from our Amazon wishlist[†]



Short URL Address:
rb.gy/np5eu0

[†] Scan QR code or type the short URL address in a browser window for direct access.