



## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

400 LA CROSSE STREET | LA CROSSE, WI 54601 | P: (608) 789-7512 | F: (608) 789-7318

### Neighborhood Revitalization Commission

#### CASE STUDY-BEST PRACTICES

1. Project Name: Little Food Pantry
2. Project Location: Hamilton Elementary School
3. Tags
  - Redevelopment
  - Landscaping
  - Capital Improvements
  - Infrastructure
  - Programming
  - Social Activity
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Transportation
  - Funding
  - Partnerships/Food- OTHER**
  - Housing
  - Storm-water
  - Floodplain
  - Association Organization
  - Administration

#### 4. Describe Project

The Little Food Pantry is outreach that the Powell-Poage Hamilton Neighborhood is conducting to its neighborhood and its school. (This is like a Little Free Library but a food pantry instead). The Neighborhood Association joined the PTO to build a little pantry outside of the school that is filled with items of basic needs (like diapers, formula, food, toilet paper). It encourages people to take what they need and give what they can. It's been very much utilized and successful.

5. **Project Stakeholders/Partners:** Powell Poage Hamilton Neighborhood Association, Hamilton School PTO
6. **Project Cost:** \$150 to build the food pantry, plus donations of food and stuff
7. **Sources of Funds:** Parent-Teacher Organization, plus personal finances and did a SOUP fundraiser (which didn't get funded but got the group motivated to do the project)
8. **Capital Stack/List:** N/A
9. **Project Challenges and Solutions**

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One of the challenges is that the food pantry is quite popular (a good thing) but others have been slow to donate to the food pantry. The neighborhood association is looking for ways to encourage other people to donate to the food pantry. A best practice is to allow the little food pantry to go empty. If people see it's empty, they think maybe I should donate it. The recommendation is to stock it when you have to but let it have it's own life. A classroom at Hamilton is going to adopt the food pantry for a month. Need to continue to market the food pantry in the media. One other benefit is that no stigma associated with taking from the food pantry and it's conveniently located.

## 10. Performance Metrics/Benefits

It's clear it is very well utilized and benefits the neighborhood based on the fact that items "fly off the shelf" and many different people and children have been observed taking from it. This is also a good way to engage other entities in supporting the neighborhood.

## 11. Outcomes and Lessons Learned

- Make it a slightly smaller box so it doesn't look empty
- Avoid certain snacks because kids would bring it into school
- Avoid cereal boxes
- **Toiletries and personal care items are VERY popular**
- Give it time to develop a life of it's own

## Project Contacts

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