

Mobile pantries alleviate hunger by removing barriers, reducing food waste, and increasing nutrition.



Fresh produce represents the highest volume, lowest cost, and most nutritious way to fight hunger.

The Mobile Food Pantry, a custom-made refrigerated truck delivering perishable food items for direct distribution to people in need, is a critical extension of the work of the **Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center**.

The program reaches individuals, including some in remote locations, to acquire items they may not find in a traditional pantry, including fresh fruit and vegetables. The program's "no questions asked" philosophy and farmers' market feel allows ease of use for guests.

The pantry supplements the efforts of programs that do not have large scale refrigeration and storage facilities for perishable foods. The mobile pantry, which was made possible through a generous donation from **Eversource** and **Connecticut Food Bank**, is a quick, easy way to help meet our region's fast growing need.

For a list of all monthly distribution sites and times for the Mobile Food Pantry, visit [uwsect.org/mobile-pantry-distributions](http://uwsect.org/mobile-pantry-distributions).



## How You Can Help

There are many ways to get involved with the mobile food pantry and take action against hunger and food insecurity in our community:

- Volunteer with a group to help distribute food;
- Serve as or identify a site where food insecure individuals and families would benefit from a monthly visit from the mobile pantry;
- Participate in the New London County Food Policy Council which is addressing many of the issues around food insecurity, food access, nutrition, community wellness, and support of local farmers and growers; and
- Make a donation to our work. Donate online at [www.uwsect.org/give](http://www.uwsect.org/give).

**Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center**  
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# Mobile Food Pantry Program

Helping to reduce hunger and food insecurity in New London County by bringing fresh and healthy food where it's needed most.



**Gemma E. Moran**  
United Way/Labor Food Center

**AFL-CIO**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES



# How the mobile pantry works

The mobile pantry custom refrigerated truck arrives at a site at the same time and location each month. Approximately 5,000 pounds of food, with 8 to 10 different items, are on the truck. These items may include dairy products, fresh vegetables, fruits, multi-grain breads, and other perishables. The pantry also may hold snack goods, condiments, and other non-perishable staples.

The food is distributed to guests by Mobile Pantry volunteers over a one-to-two hour period. Volunteer groups are welcome to participate in distribution.

The mobile food pantry is based on a client choice farmers' market style distribution that includes a "no questions asked" philosophy allowing individuals a level of comfort during their visit. Generally, guests receive approximately a week's worth of food.

Individuals using the pantry must bring an ID, and we ask them to provide their own bags or boxes in which to carry the food. Participation in this program will not affect anyone's eligibility in other assistance programs.



# Hosting a distribution site

If you are looking for a way to provide food to individuals in your community, but do not have the necessary space or equipment to host a pantry in your organization, the Mobile Food Pantry program may be the answer.

Any non-501(c)3 agency, municipality or organization can

partner in the mobile food pantry program by providing a parking lot, a monetary donation to cover the cost of a mobile pantry, and/or volunteers to manage the event.

You must be able to host the mobile pantry once per month at the same time and on the same day of the week. United Way will provide promotional materials to help spread the word when the pantry will be at your location. Distribution sites are also posted on the United Way website.

Interested member agencies, municipalities or organizations are invited to apply for the program. Please call the **Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center** at (860)464-3327 or email [jennifer.blanco@uwsect.org](mailto:jennifer.blanco@uwsect.org) for an application and/or more information.

## About the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center

Since 1988, the **Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center** has been active in the fight against hunger and food insecurity, helping thousands of individuals and families across our community.

Every year, the Food Center distributes more than two million pounds of donated and surplus food to more than 80 food pantries, shelters, child care centers, community meal sites and programs for seniors. These member agencies help to feed 21,000 people each month.

The **Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center** reclaims surplus food from growers, manufacturers, stores and restaurants. We also receive donations from company and school food drives, local organizations, and more!

The Food Center is an official Partner Distribution Organization (PDO) of **Connecticut Food Bank**. This partnership provides a product allocation based on poverty levels as determined by the latest U.S. Census. Through Connecticut Food Bank, we are a member of **Feeding America** allowing us to purchase the equivalent of 10 meals for every dollar.

