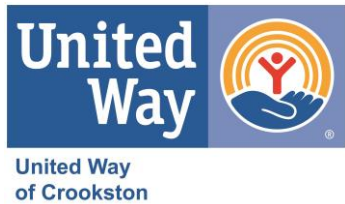


YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED....

Food Shelf Planning/Discussion Meeting Hosted By:



Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019

Time: 5:30 p.m.

**Location: Valley Technology Park – Co-Working Space
510 County Road 71, Crookston, MN**

Why Do We Need to Plan for a Food Shelf? North Country Food Bank recently announced it has signed an agreement to purchase a new facility in East Grand Forks. As you may be aware, North Country has been working hard over the past three years to plan for a much-needed new building, and had originally planned to build a new facility in Crookston. However, an existing building large enough to house North Country's operations recently became available in East Grand Forks. This building provides the perfect opportunity for North Country to meet its goals. It will not only allow North Country to improve service to those in need, but it will do so in a way that allows for the most responsible use of available resources. It is estimated acquiring the existing building in East Grand Forks versus building new in Crookston will save North Country more than \$4 million.

This means North Country will no longer be operating out of Crookston, and will not be in a position to continue running the food shelf in Crookston. North Country anticipates moving to its new location by the end of 2019. North Country and the United Way want to work with the community to establish a new food shelf by October 1, 2019.

Meeting Goals! Please come prepared to discuss ideas, options, concerns and other matters relevant to establishing a food shelf – including location, funding, management and operation. It is our goal at this meeting to identify individuals and/or groups that have an interest in taking on the food shelf, and begin planning the transition process.

Who Should Attend? This meeting is open to community-minded individuals and groups that have an interest in the future of the food shelf – especially community leaders, volunteers, professionals, church leaders, school personnel, and any other interested parties.

Why is a Food Shelf so Important? The Food Shelf currently operated by North Country serves 250-300 families per month. Every successful community has a plan for assisting those who struggle with hunger. There are huge costs to a community that doesn't address hunger issues that may include increased health care costs, decreased worker productivity, and behavioral issues among children and adults to name a few. ***If you are hungry....nothing else matters!***