



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bostik Supports United Ministries' Food Pantry for the Souper Bowl

Greenville, S.C. (January 27, 2016) – When United Ministries asked the community for canned food for their food pantry, Bostik Inc. answered the call. The Greenville plant of Bostik, a leading global adhesive specialist, is organizing a plant-wide food drive for the Souper Bowl of Caring, a food drive campaign centered around Super Bowl 50.

Mr. Jamie Rhyne, plant manager, says that Bostik chose to support United Ministries because the food donated stays right here in Greenville County and helps our neighbors in need. Rhyne says that United Ministries is known for working with poor and homeless people in Greenville, but that what appeals to him is the organization's focus on life change. Rhyne says, "The assistance (from United Ministries) comes in multiple forms: rent, utilities, food, education, and employment training. This is what motivates us to give—changing people's lives beyond a bag of groceries and providing them the potential for a sustainable future."

This ability to provide people with both hunger alleviation now as well as opportunities to improve food security in the future is part of what makes United Ministries distinct.

An active member of the Greenville human services community for the past 45 years, United Ministries provides much more than just food assistance. Many people who come to United Ministries for help with food or paying a rent or utility bill are also connected to United Ministries' adult education and employment readiness programs. "We take a holistic approach to addressing the needs of people struggling to make ends meet. If we can help people earn their GEDs or receive certified job training, that's going to help them be financially stable in the future," says Ethan Friddle, interim executive director.

United Ministries' food pantry transitioned to a client-choice model last year, another unique attribute of the organization's food assistance program. The new client-choice model returns dignity to those seeking assistance by giving them the ability to choose food items that fit their families' needs, thereby cutting down on food waste. Helen Anderson, a volunteer in the food assistance program for over 12 years says that the new system is more effective. "It allows people to get the things that they like and the things that they really need," she says. Last year, United Ministries provided food to 2,562 families in Greenville County, helping to feed 5,346 individuals.

(MORE)

United Ministries is asking the community for 2,620 pounds of food for the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign because there are 2,620 miles from United Ministries to the Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, CA, the location of Super Bowl 50 where the Panthers will take on the Broncos February 7th. You can join the Souper Bowl of Caring by bringing your food donations to United Ministries, 606 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC 29601, Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm and Friday 8am-12pm. You can also tackle hunger online at <https://www.united-ministries.org/souper-bowl-of-caring.php>.

About United Ministries

Located in downtown Greenville's West End, United Ministries has been working for 45 years to give every member of our community the opportunity to participate in the prosperity of our community. Originally established by local congregations to meet the crisis needs of people living in poverty, our agency has evolved to focus on developing the potential each family possesses to become self-sufficient – and even to thrive. Our integrated service model discourages dependency on charity and promotes the dignity of work. For more information on United Ministries please visit www.united-ministries.org or call 864-335-2614.

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