Every March, VEAP participates in the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign. This year our goal is bigger than ever. Your support will help us make this the most successful March Food and Fund Drive ever.

**A Toast to VEAP**

Friday, March 1

6 - 8:00 p.m.

at the VEAP Warehouse

$35 at the door

$40 at the door

must be 21 to attend

Help us raise $175,000 and 75,000 lbs of food.

You can check our progress at veap.org

Join us on March 1

in VEAP’s warehouse and distribution areas to enjoy food from local restaurants, craft beer and wine from Edina Liquor distributors.

**VEAP’s 20th Annual Gala**

Together for Good

VEAP’s 20th Annual Gala will be held Friday, April 26, 2019 at the Radisson Blu, MOA.

Interested in sponsoring VEAP’s Gala or donating to our silent auction? Contact Patty at pattys@veap.org or 952.955.8310.

February 25 - April 7

Kick off March Food and Fund Drive with us at A Toast to VEAP!

VEAP’s March Food & Fund Drive

February 25 - April 7

VEAP Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People

9600 Aldrich Avenue South  Bloomington, MN 55420  |  952.888.9616   veap.org  |  facebook.com/VEAPvol

A Toast to VEAP

VEAP Gala

March Food & Fund Drive

Spring 2019
Looking Forward in 2019

VEAP is finding new ways to build upon our existing programs and services to meet the changing, and often uncertain, needs of our clients and community. Healthy food, housing stability and supportive services remain the foundation of what we can achieve. Innovation is our passion! Partnership and funding remains our priority.

Mobile Food Pantry

At Normandale Community College, not every student has adequate resources. Working toward a skill and degree is the key to a more stable and hopeful future for students, but school and housing costs add up, leaving little for healthy food. Several months ago, VEAP began regular food distribution at Normandale via our Mobile Pantry, and it’s grown to be our busiest site. Students and staff alike are grateful to receive the fresh produce and other healthy foods they need to continue studying and working toward a better future.

Senior Shuttles and Grocery Delivery

Penelope 35 is a low-income senior apartment building in Bloomington. VEAP is launching a pilot program to combine two of our existing services – food delivery and senior shuttles. Under the umbrella of the VEAP Mobile Food Services program, we will be going to Penelope 35 twice each month to deliver groceries to residents that have pre-ordered them, and also provide shuttle service for other residents to come to VEAP so they can shop in the food pantry. By combining these two services, we remove barriers to ensure more seniors can be reached.

Extra Produce Visits at VEAP

Donna is a senior living in Bloomington on a fixed income. She works a part time job to earn the additional funds she needs to help with rent costs. Between social security and her small supplemental income, she can barely make her rent payment and has relied on VEAP for food for a few years.

Donna’s case is a key factor in her economic stability, independence and social connectedness. When she needed a new alternator, the repair price was out of her reach. If she couldn’t get to work, she would lose her job and source of vital supplemental income.

She told her story to a social worker at VEAP, and several services and bridge supports were set into motion. Donna had never applied for SNAP benefits, because she wrongly assumed she’d lose her ability to come to VEAP for food. But adding SNAP to her food budget management meant that Donna could direct more of her dollars toward savings and important bills. We also set up additional produce visits to VEAP, ensuring that Donna could shop more than once a month for items like fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, eggs and butter. Additionally, VEAP was able to contact the garage and negotiate a cost reduction to fix Donna’s car, and VEAP paid for the repair as well. The final piece of the puzzle was working with Donna to set aside a small amount of money each month to pay for future car repairs.

Additional VEAP pantry visits for perishables, reduced car repair costs, applying for SNAP benefits, and budget counseling – these were all key supports that could bring Donna out of crisis and back into stability. Staying in her home and keeping her job means staying independent for more years to come.

Each of these programs and services require strong partnerships between staff, volunteers, the community, and our generous donors. Every dollar donated to VEAP supports our ability to purchase healthy food for our food pantry and mobile food pantry. Dollars donated allow VEAP to assist with preventing homelessness by helping a client catch up on rent and avoid eviction. Funds given to VEAP make rent payments, car repairs, gas cards and other vital supports possible. VEAP can meet the needs of our community, but only with your help.

From Joe McDonald, CEO
Since I started as CEO of VEAP on December 3, I have spent time listening to our dedicated staff and board members. I’ve met, talked with, and worked alongside many of our incredible volunteers throughout the building and in the mobile pantry. In just a few weeks, I’ve witnessed firsthand the goodness that our staff, volunteers and donors make possible. I’ve learned so much about VEAP’s history and Hope for the Future, and I am excited to be a part of it and to tell people about it!

As we continue into 2019 together, I will keep listening and learning as I cultivate relationships with VEAP’s community partners and with the donors who give so generously to help us offer our clients access to healthy food, housing stability and other resources and services. I want to expand awareness of VEAP’s work and impact by connecting with local businesses and faith communities, and by deepening our relationships with the school districts. And I will work with our board and staff to appreciate our amazing volunteers and to invite even more people to give their time and energy to help make VEAP a safe and welcoming place for our clients to receive the help—and hope—that we offer.

Thank you for your continued support of VEAP, and please stop by my office to say hello the next time you are here.