



West Central Highlands RC&D

Enriching Lives...Building Communities

Emmett Valley Friendship Coalition Food Pantry Project

This project is quite a success story. It began in January 2008 when an unorganized food pantry project in Emmett, ID was handed to a group of folks representing seven different church denominations. Those folks ultimately formed the Emmett Valley Friendship Coalition. The group came to the West Central Highlands RC&D for project and administrative assistance, and The Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation provided a grant to get them started. The group formed a very successful organization dedicated to business without turmoil, to operating with transparency, and with doors open to anyone or any church.



In short, the Emmett Valley Friendship Coalition stepped up to the plate and filled a tremendous community need...to supply food and meals for the hungry and less fortunate.



So what did the group accomplish? In 2009 their pantry operation provided food for 86 families every week. In addition, they provided 156 hot meals each week from their dining facility. They provided Christmas Cheer Baskets for 500 families. They provided a full Christmas meal for 358 families and toys for 145 families. On Thanksgiving they

served 247 people with dinner and provided food from the pantry to another 191 families.

In a county where poverty is a real issue, the Coalition has stepped forward and made a tremendous difference! And how does this group accomplish so much? In 2009 the Coalition's dedicated group of volunteers donated close to 5,000 hours of time! More than 100 volunteers alone supported the Christmas season effort.



The Coalition is now pursuing their own 501 c 3 status, and the WCH RCD is working to integrate their operation with local food production projects. The Friendship Coalition is an extremely successful organization, and WCH RC&D is proud to be part of their effort. The Emmett Valley Friendship Coalition operates from Emmett, ID.