

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

December 2022



For much of the food that arrives at Catholic Charities' warehouse, the journey starts with an order. At least once a week, dry or canned items and some produce is ordered from the Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma (FB). This order is created online using a system that lets agencies like CCEOK request from a list of available items.

CCEOK periodically orders from Comprehensive Inventory Solutions (CIS), a Minnesota company that stocks off-label foods and markets to food pantries, small grocery stores and discount grocery wholesalers. Food is also ordered from DOT Foods (DOT). DOT is one of the largest food distribution companies in the country. They buy in bulk, store it, and redistribute it to their customers. Customers can order any quantity they need. The Kitchen orders certain supplies from Sysco – a global company that sells to the foodservice industry.

CCEOK may also be advised of one-off deals through Catholic Charities USA. A food producer for some reason is looking to unload a large quantity of something. These orders may result in a windfall where a truck arrives with 20 pallets of boxed macaroni and cheese, or 25,000 pounds of unbagged potatoes!

While much of the food is ordered, some arrives ad hoc – we don't know what we will receive from one day to the next. This food can come from several sources.

Produce – fruits and vegetables – is stocked by the FB, but what they have varies from day-to-day. Since this type of food can't be ordered, a CCEOK driver must show up at the FB and "shop" for produce, which is usually in pallet quantities.

Some items like bread, desserts, dairy, meat and frozen foods arrive on a FB truck directly from a retailer that has donated these items to the FB. Often the FB driver will deliver the food items directly to our warehouse, saving them the time and trouble of stocking items that it knows CCEOK can use and will distribute promptly. We pay the FB by the pound for meat and frozen foods, but the other items we get gratis. The catch is that we don't know what we will receive on these deliveries. Recently, summer toys and Halloween costumes arrived

along with food. We might also find bread, desserts, or fish sticks that may take some time to distribute.

Other donated food includes the bagels from Panera and Einsteins that the "Bagel Army" (a group of veterans) picks up and delivers, church donations, some food from local Walmart centers, and the occasional donation from John 3:16 Mission.

Rural Outreach locations prepare their own FB dry goods order. The staff at those locations tell Philip what produce they need. He will run by the FB and shop or head to Bartlesville to see if he can satisfy their requests from CCEOK's Mary Martha Outreach (CC-MMO) warehouse. Philip then delivers the produce he was able to obtain on his weekly run.

The food that CC-MMO distributes comes from orders placed with the FB, but they also get a lot of produce from the Walmart distribution center southeast of Ochelata. Food they receive from the FB must stay in Washington County.

The food that CCEOK receives can be used by The Kitchen, The Market, or for Eastern Oklahoma Outreach. The destination determines where the food is warehoused and/or refrigerated. Also, it is important to store USDA-provided food separate from non-USDA food because USDA food has restrictions on who receives it and what locations can distribute it. Non-USDA food has no such restrictions.

Managing incoming food is complicated! Not only are there ongoing requirements for certain types of food for The Market and The Kitchen, but there are additional requirements for local and Outreach pop-up pantries, senior and homeless bags, as well as the large distribution events.

The folks who choreograph this dance are doing so with limited warehouse, refrigerator and freezer space, a varying pool of volunteers, and food availability and delivery schedules that are often unknown until the last minute. If you happen to run into Bobby, Daniel, Philip, Kevin, Butch or Jose, let them know that you appreciate the work they do and the daily challenges they overcome almost every working day! They make it look easy.




Thank you for helping with our
Thanksgiving Day of Blessings!





Sign up for the Dec. 17
Christmas Day of
Blessings here!



DECEMBER	Sun. 4	Mon. 5 9am - 2pm	Tues. 6 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 7 9am - 2pm	Thur. 8 9am - 2pm	Fri. 9 9am - 2pm	Sat. 10
	Sun. 11	Mon. 12 9am - 2pm	Tues. 13 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 14 9am - 2pm	Thur. 15 9am - 2pm	Fri. 16 Closing Early 9am - noon	Sat. 17 Day of Blessings (must have ticket)
	Sun. 18	Mon. 19 9am - 2pm	Tues. 20 9am - 2pm & 5pm to 7pm	Wed. 21 9am - 2pm	Thur. 22 Closing Early 9am - noon	Fri. 23 CLOSED	Sat. 24
	Sun. 25 Merry Christmas!	Mon. 26 CLOSED	Tues. 27 Opening Late noon - 3pm Closed Tues Evening	Wed. 28 9am - 2pm	Thur. 29 9am - 2pm	Fri. 30 CLOSED	Sat. 31 CLOSED
JAN	Sun. 1 Happy New Years!	Mon. 2 CLOSED	Tues. 3 Opening Late noon - 3pm Closed Tues Evening	Wed. 4 9am - 2pm	Thur. 5 9am - 2pm	Fri. 6 9am - 2pm	Sat. 7



Donate Blood Dec. 14th!

Save a life - sign up at the front desk to donate blood on Dec. 14th from 8am-2pm!

This will be the last issue of the "Food For Thought" newsletter.

But we're coming back in February 2023, with a new name and an expanded focus!

There is just so much newsworthy activity happening on campus and at our outreach locations across Eastern Oklahoma that the new newsletter will include articles about those things as well.

A big thanks to our intrepid reporter, Dennis Hayes, for his reporting from the Market, Warehouse and elsewhere. Thanks to Julia Rush for the eye-catching layout and design, and thanks to everyone who agreed to be interviewed for the stories.

Holiday Hours in The Market

As we enter the holiday season, keep this calendar to reference changed hours and closures in The Market. Thank you for continuing to serve our neighbors in need during this busy time of year. We wish you and your family a joyous holiday season!

VicTouch will have a new look

Beginning Jan 1, 2023, the way volunteers log in to record their volunteer hours will have a new look.

Volunteer Information Center

Welcome. If you have your Volunteer PIN enter it here.

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
#	0	▶

PARTY FOR A CAUSE WITH 1,000 OF YOUR CLOSEST FRIENDS!

SAVE THE DATE!

18th annual COOKING UP COMPASSION 2.3.23

A-LIST WINNER

CCEOK.ORG/CUC

GET INVOLVED



Volunteer with us! cceok.org/volunteer
Join our Facebook Group!

For story ideas, feedback, etc.,
email: volcommunications@cceok.org