

The Greater Groveport Food Pantry would like to submit a proposal regarding the building at 595 Cherry Street.

As you may know, the local food pantry serves many clients who live within the boundaries of the local school district. Approximately one-third of those clients are residents of the city of Groveport, with the rest living in surrounding Madison Township. We have experienced a 50% increase in requests since 2007.

For the past nineteen years we have been working free of charge from the basement of the Madison Township Community Center. This has been a wonderful opportunity which has allowed us to focus all of our resources on providing food assistance. We are a non-profit organization that is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors, comprised of representatives from ten area churches. We receive no outside funding and have no guaranteed monthly income. We "survive" totally on donations. For that reason, we are unable to secure another location that would require monthly rent and utility payments. However, the Madison Township room has become more difficult to use as the steep stairwell makes it extremely difficult for both our clients and our volunteers. There are no water facilities for cleaning or for a bathroom. Due to the significant increase in need, we have outgrown the current space.

We have recently become aware of the vacancy of the building at 595 Cherry Street in Groveport. We have visited the building and conferred with city representatives as to the needs for making the building usable. They informed us that our needs do not require the significant financial investment that was originally quoted to Council. We are asking for the city to grant us the use of this building, rent and utility free, so that we can house the food pantry. We will continue to pursue donations and grant funding to help us with the renovation. We intend to use our own labor to perform the interior work. We would ask for the city to maintain the exterior of the building and the parking area.

The food pantry operations are very limited. We usually have a volunteer there less than 2 hours per day, making deliveries and stocking shelves. Our clients visit the pantry during a four-hour window on Thursdays, so that is the busiest time. The clients have scheduled appointments, so there are only 1-2 clients at the building at any time.

Thank you for considering our request. We hope you recognize this as an opportunity to provide much needed assistance to local persons in need.

Greater Groveport Food Pantry Board

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