

Building renovation update

3/23/09

By now most of you know that we have a new 30-year lease with the City of Northampton for this site, which includes about 400 square feet of new space located beyond the back room where we receive food donations. This is a *very exciting* development for us, as it provides a little more room to expand into, and gives us an opportunity to think about how best to configure our programs in the expanded space.



Many of you have been asking about the timetable and process for moving into this area, and I know everyone is eager to be able to start using the space. Although the wait is frustrating now, the reason behind it is encouraging. Right now we're doing behind-the-scenes work to evaluate the cost and feasibility of doing major renovations, beyond the repairs strictly required in the new area, which would integrate the new area with the old and to make the physical layout and conditions more efficient and comfortable ("Heating and air conditioning, anyone?")

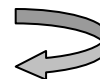


Over the coming weeks you may see engineers, architects, builders and others walking the space and making detailed surveys and plans to help us determine the long-term requirements and restrictions of this location, to aid in planning the next step. Our likely next step will be to begin fundraising for the renovation effort, with construction to begin as soon as the financial way is secured.



In the short-term, we hope to do some smaller repairs, including removing the broken ceiling tiles in the new area, so that the space is safe and secure for storing non-perishable food. If all goes well, we hope to run this year's Post Office Food Drive on May 9th (mark your calendars!) right here at home, which will be a real cause for celebration!

Stay tuned for more details as they develop, or feel free to ask me if you have specific questions. ~Heidi



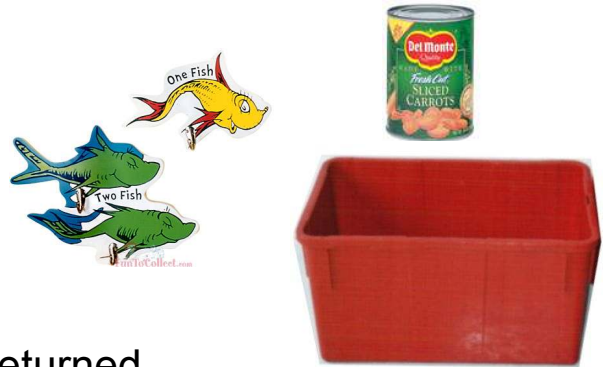
Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Training Tip of the Month!

**One Bin, Two Bin,
Red Bin, Blue Bin . . .**

The "USDA Returns" Bin

(Green bin under the pantry counter)



- *Pantry* counter volunteers put returned USDA items in this bin.
Note: Some clients may give unwanted USDA items to another client rather than back to us.
- *Stockers* take items from this bin and weigh them in before re-stocking.

The "Pigs" Bin

(Red bin on the bottom shelf next to the USDA bags)

- This bin is for items that are unsafe to give out to clients.

POST OFFICE FOOD DRIVE!

Mark Your Calendars Now!

This year's POFD, our largest food drive of the year, will be held on
Saturday, May 9th!

Please sign up to join us for this fun, festive, community event, where together we will receive 20,000 pounds of food (or more) in one day!

We are also looking folks to help us distribute **10,000** bags throughout the City of Northampton in the week leading up to the event.

Please talk to Sarah or Beth for more details! 😊

