

OUT AND ABOUT

Summer is here and NDN is in full swing. Where can we take you?!

Food Pantries Are Here to Help...and So Are We

There are a number of food pantries/food banks in NDN's service area that are able to give free food to eligible residents. And if you're a registered rider, we can help take you there.



If you are a resident of Belgrade, Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, Rome or Vienna, you may be eligible to receive free food from a food pantry or food bank

that serves your town. (Please contact any food pantry directly to see if you meet any applicable eligibility guidelines.)

Here are the food pantries and food banks serving people in NDN's six town service area:

- **Belgrade-Rome Special Needs Food Pantry:** Serves residents of Belgrade and Rome; North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Rd, Belgrade; open Tuesdays 9-11 a.m.; also open first Thursday in July, August, September 4:30-6:30 p.m. on a trial basis; call 495-2258 for more info.
- **Town of Rome Food Cupboard:** Serves Rome residents only; Rome Community Center/Town Office, 8 Mercer Rd, Rome; open 4th Wednesday of each month, 1-3 p.m.; no income requirements; bring your own bag; 397-4011 for more info.
- **Mt. Vernon Food Bank:** Serves residents of Fayette, Mt. Vernon, Readfield and Vienna; First Baptist Church, 321 Pond Rd, Mt. Vernon; open Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m (except the Saturday after Thanksgiving and

Christmas)—more selection on the first and third Saturdays; call 293-2141 during food pantry hours for more info or call the Mt. Vernon town office (293-2379).

• **Maranacook Food Pantry:**

Serves residents of Fayette, Manchester, Mt. Vernon, Readfield, and Wayne; located near the lower parking lot of the Maranacook campus on Millard Harrison Dr. in Readfield; no paperwork needed; open Thursdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.; contact Mary Ellen Tracy (maryellen_tracy@maranacook.com) or Sarah Morrill (sarah_morrill@maranacook.com) in advance.

• **Fayette Baptist Church Food Pantry:**

Serves residents of Fayette and anyone in the immediate area who is in need; 39 Baldwin Hill Rd, Fayette; open Thursdays, 2:00-4:00 p.m.; also on a need basis by calling 685-9492 or emailing the church (office@fayettebaptistchurch.org).

Neighbors Driving Neighbors can help residents in our service area take advantage of these food pantry/food banks by providing free transportation. We can also provide pick up and delivery of food pantry orders, if that is something you are able to arrange. Contact us to learn how to register with NDN.



Did You Know?

NDN provides rides to registered riders for many purposes and to many types of destinations as long as the distance involved is no more than 35 miles from a rider's home? Destinations and purposes can include: hospitals, medical offices, offices providing mental health and motivational services, State agency or federal agency offices, dental offices, the post office, banks, grocery stores and other kinds of stores, food pantries, pharmacies, career counseling centers, job training centers, barber shop or hair salon, educational classes, exercise classes, a person's place of employment, a senior center, libraries, restaurants, a social gathering at the home of a friend or family member, a nursing home for a visit with a friend or loved one, a community event such as a play, concert, or craft show, an athletic event, an auction, a movie theater, a volunteer assignment for some organization, and more.



NDN Executive Director Joe Austin, left, and President Harald Bredesen, center, join volunteer Sue Squires as she discusses her positive experiences as a driver for NDN. Photo by Darcy Adams

Celebrating Volunteer Drivers

On May 25, Neighbors Driving Neighbors held a luncheon to honor its volunteer drivers at the Viles House in Augusta. While it was the intent of the lunch to thank the drivers, it was clear that the feeling was reciprocal. When asked why they volunteer for NDN, driver responses included “connection to the community,” “wanted to give a little back,” and “I’m paying it forward!”

NDN Executive Director Joe Austin commented that riders often tell him how grateful they are, and that they enjoy the time they spend with their neighbors. He further stated, “Rides are not only provided to medical appointments and grocery stores—NDN takes residents to lectures, lunches, and other social events—even to work. And this past year, NDN was proud to say that we reached the 100,000 miles driven mark.”

NDN is looking for volunteers who like to drive, have a good driving record, and would enjoy being part of providing transportation for adults who no longer drive so they may stay in their homes. No minimum time commitment, great socialization and many thanks from the riders. For more info, check out our volunteer driver FAQs [here](#).



Events Coming Up!

July 22: Community Breakfast, 9-11 am; Mt. Vernon Community Center. All are welcome!

July 1-28: Online Auction Fundraiser; Check out BiddingOwl.com/neighborsdrivingneighbors for one of a kind items and experiences!



Please join us in thanking our most recent funding partners for their generous support—John T. Gorman Foundation, Kennebec Savings Bank and MaineGeneral Health.

