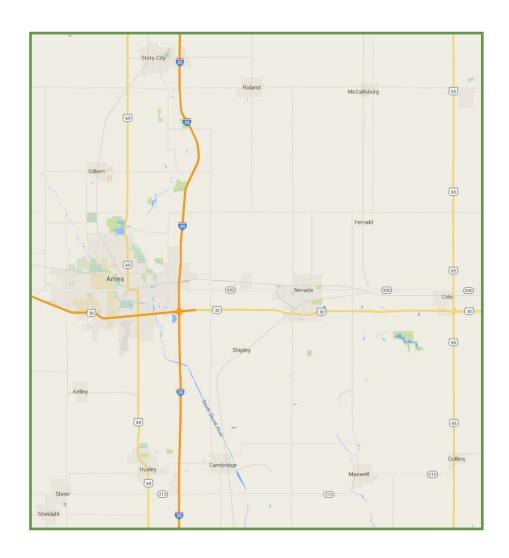
# Story County Hunger Guide



# Compiled by



### STORY COUNTY HUNGER COLLABORATION

Mission: To address the root causes of hunger to improve access to healthy food in Story County

### History

United Way of Story County (UWSC) embraced hunger as one of its community impact focus areas shortly following the 2005 community needs assessment.

In 2007, UWSC formed a collaboration among the food pantries in Story County with the purpose to educate staff and volunteers, coordinate efforts, and share best practices. Iowa State University Extension and other groups present educational information at each meeting. Past topics have included Plant A Row for the Hungry; Spend Smart, Eat Smart; and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Past coordination discussions have included ideas for holiday food distribution, food storage, and use of the Food Bank of Iowa. In 2018 there are 18 food pantries throughout Story County.

In 2011, UWSC formally developed the Story County Hunger Collaboration to bring together members of the community to create a plan to educate about local hunger to improve access to healthy food in the county. Membership of the Hunger Collaboration can be found on page 12.

#### The Need

Since the 2011-2012 school year, the free and reduced-priced school lunch rate remained constant at 25% across the county until the 2015-16 school year, when the rate increased to just over 26% according to the lowa Department of Education. That percentage decreased to 24.1% in the 2017-18 school year. Although that appears to be positive, it is of concern that there are some children who should be signed up, but are not.

UWSC continues to hold its annual LIVE UNITED Food Drive in May to supply the pantries before school is out for the summer. In 2017, the drive brought in almost 14,000 lbs of food that was distributed to pantries throughout the county.

#### Our Work

A few of the strategies to reduce hunger in Story County began by the Hunger Collaboration include BackPack Program, summer food service programs in Nevada and Ames, Commodity Supplemental Food Program for seniors, and helping to facilitate partnerships among agencies that can collaborate to reduce hunger.

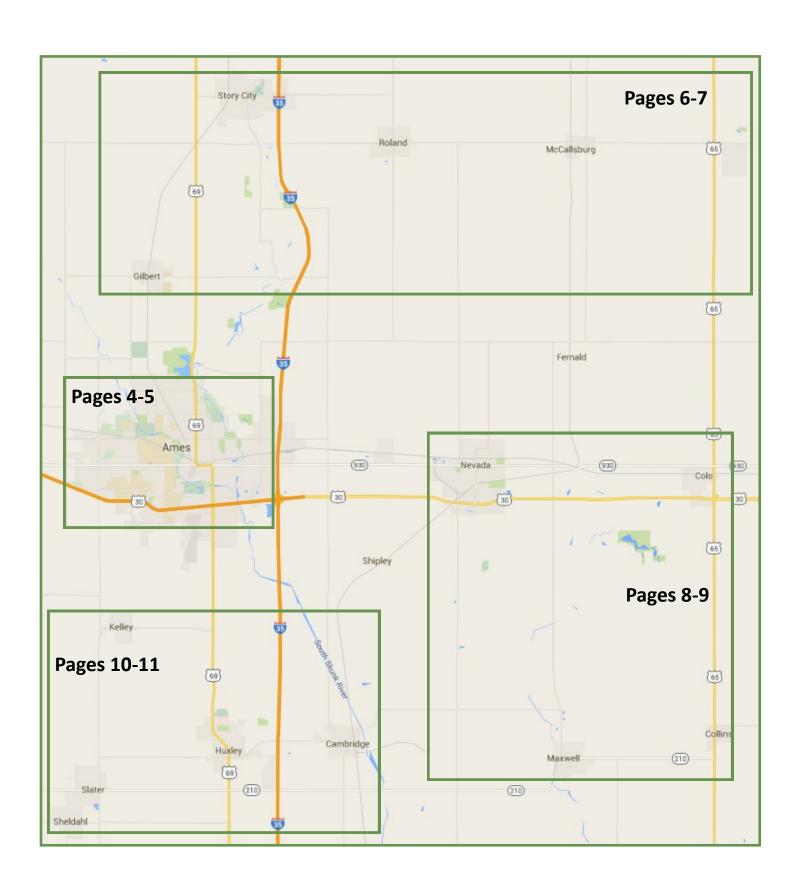
These efforts to address the issue of hunger in Story County do not include the many programs and services available through other organizations. Despite our efforts to address the problem, we know that the number of people in our county who go to bed hungry at night is much higher than most of our general population recognizes. Because of that we developed a Hunger Collaboration to work with others in our community to create a plan that educates our communities that there is a need and to work together to significantly reduce the incidence of hunger in our community.

It is important that we study the "why" of hunger so that we can create a community-wide action plan that not only addresses the immediate needs, but works on developing solutions that can be identified and acted upon.

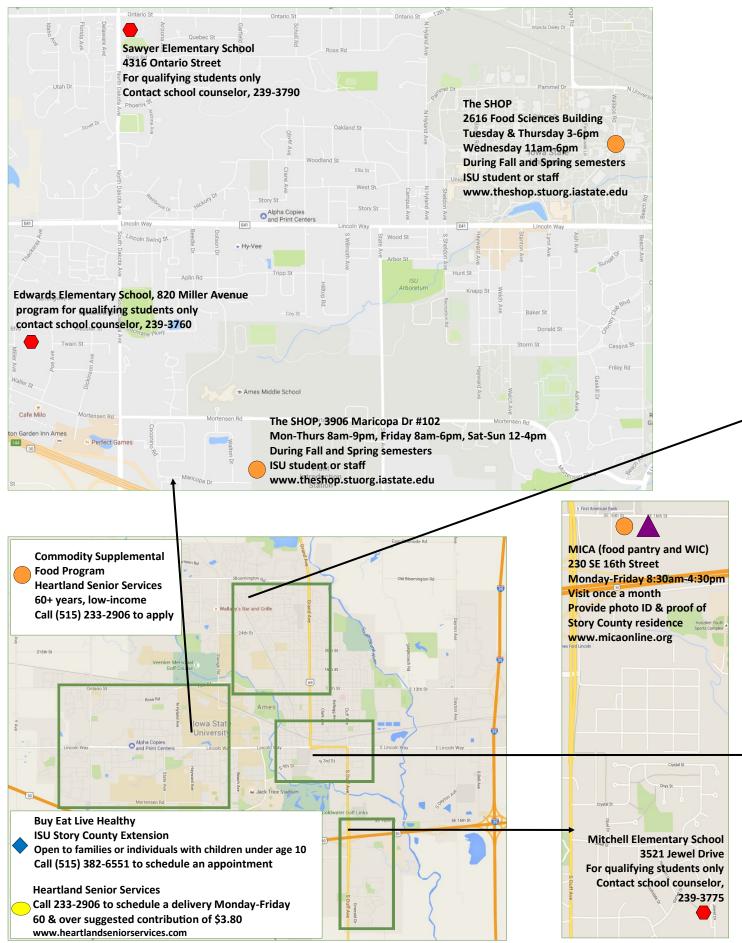
### Join Us

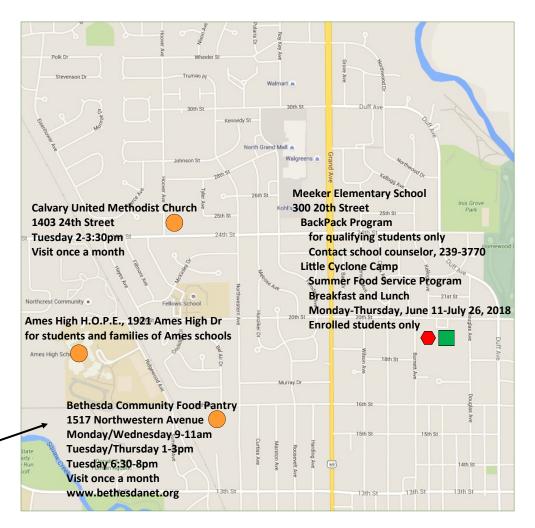
Visit www.uwstory.org/income for more information, or join us for our monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month from 3-4pm at the UWSC office, 315 Clark Avenue in Ames.

# FOOD SOURCES: STORY COUNTY, IOWA

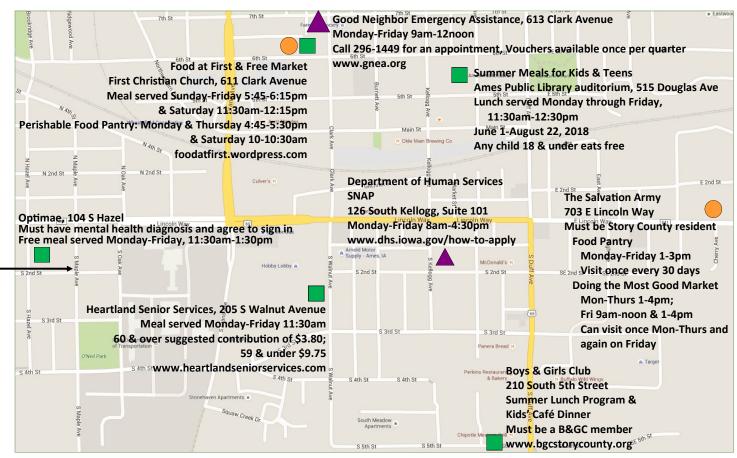


### **EMERGENCY FOOD SOURCES: AMES, IOWA**

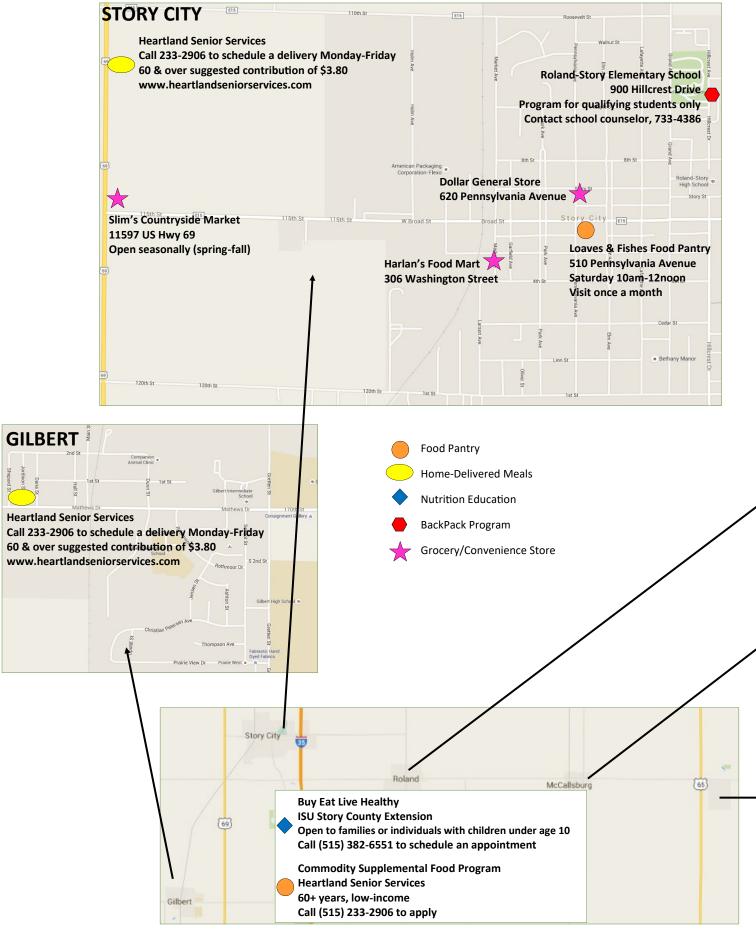


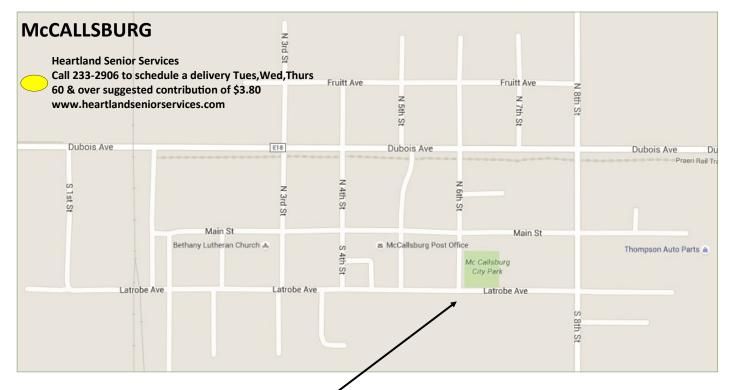


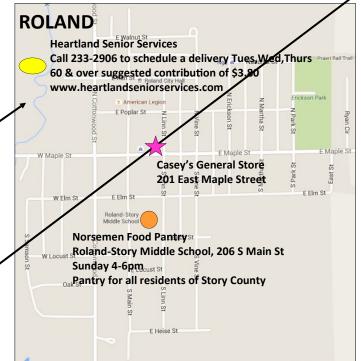




## **FOOD SOURCES: NORTH STORY COUNTY, IOWA**

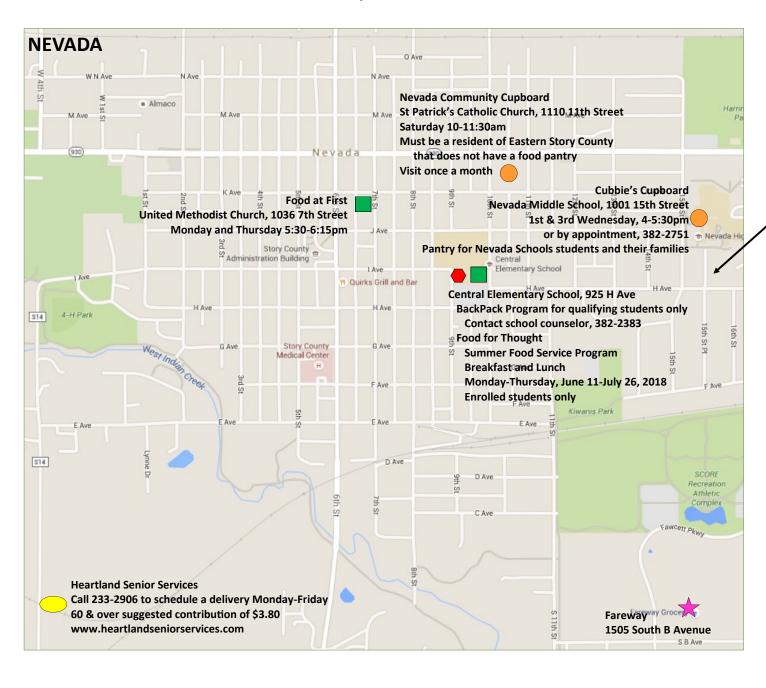




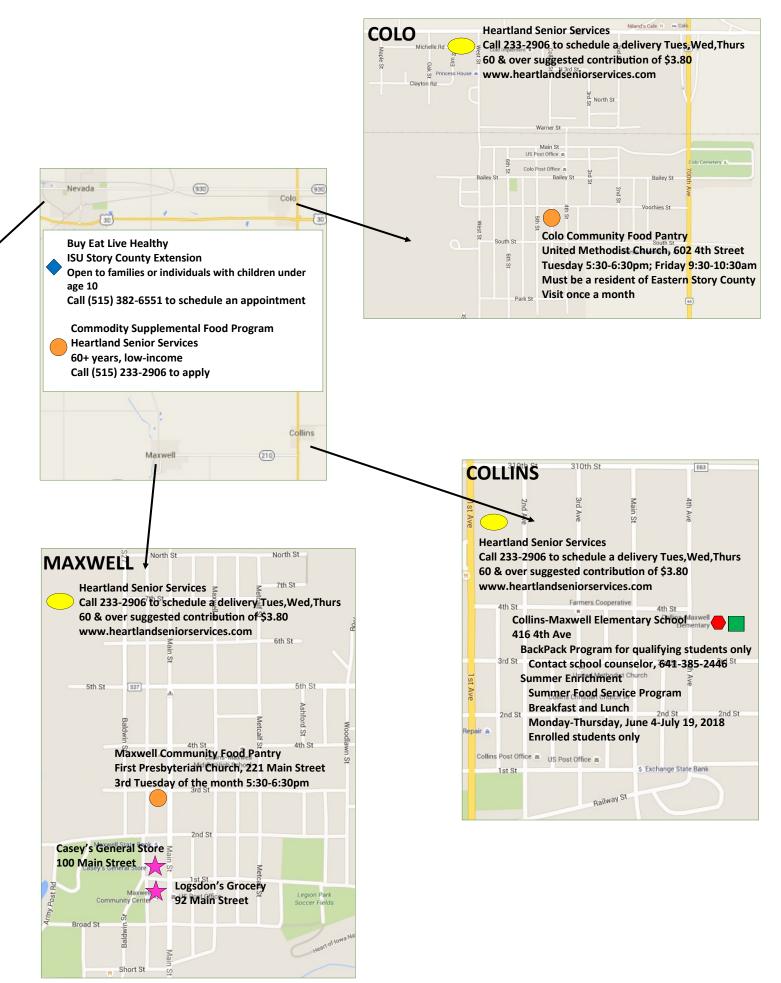




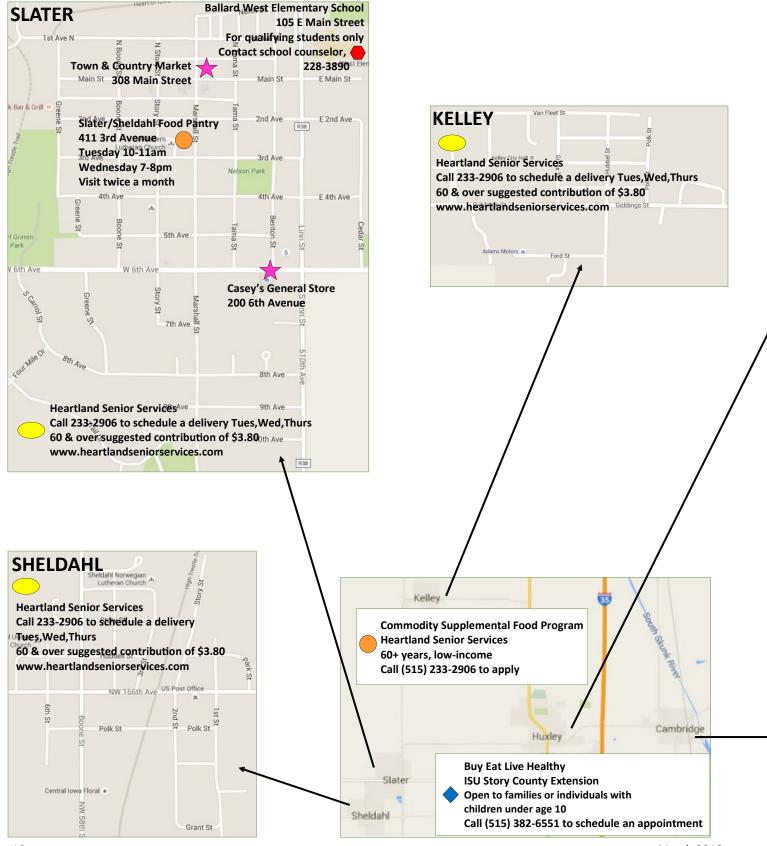
## **FOOD SOURCES: EAST STORY COUNTY, IOWA**







## **FOOD SOURCES: SOUTH STORY COUNTY, IOWA**





# **Hunger Collaboration Partners**

AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy)

First Christian Church

Food Bank of Iowa

Heartland Senior Services
Iowa State University Extension

Mary Greeley Medical Center

Mid-Iowa Community Action

Nevada Community Cupboard

Primary Health Care

Saint Cecilia Catholic Church

Story County Board of Supervisors

The Salvation Army

United Way of Story County



315 Clark Avenue Ames, IA 50010 (515) 268-5142 unitedway@uwstory.org www.uwstory.org