

# RUBY'S PANTRIES

*"Take what you need, bring what you can. fill our town with love"*

Ruby's Freestanding Little Free Food Pantries offer canned, pre-packaged, non-perishable food to our community, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Gifted to Ridgefield in 2021 by Ruby Weiner, Ruby's Pantries were built by Ross Clark and Clark Construction after the pandemic, when Ridgefield's food insecurity spiked. Today, more than ever, there is still need in our community. Go to any of the freestanding little free food pantries (listed below\*) to drop off canned, and pre-packaged food, or pick up food to round out a meal, make a meal, or make several meals. The food is there for you.

- **Jesse Lee Memorial United Methodist Church, 207 Main Street**
- **Ridgebury Congregational Church, 605 Ridgebury Road**
- **Boys & Girls Club of Ridgefield, 41 Governor Street**
- **Wooster Hollow Cafe, 659 Danbury Road**
- **New Location! Clark Construction, 51 Ethan Allen Highway**



Proudly listed on our town's [ridgefieldct.gov](http://ridgefieldct.gov) site, under Government-Departments-Social Services-Other Food Assistance, each freestanding little free food pantry offers:

- Anonymous access to canned, and pre-packaged food for all, 24/7
- Community engagement
- A quick and easy way to share with our neighbors
- Dignified access to free food and personal items, when Federal Nutrition and SNAP Programs may not cover all needs
- Community service opportunities for all ages, anytime: feel free to stock the pantries, host food drives, donate to fill a pantry, or make birthday cake kits, to ensure everyone is celebrated on their special day!

The Community Cupboard at Ballard Green, gifted by Ruby Weiner in 2022, is a private pantry for resident use only. However, donations are greatly appreciated.

Please email: [RubysPantry@gmail.com](mailto:RubysPantry@gmail.com) for more information.

## What's Needed Most?

Please consider a donation of canned, pre-packaged, non-perishable food. What does that mean? Basically, food that is "shelf-stable" or nonperishable. Look for cans with pull-tabs for easy opening. People may not have can openers. And remember, only donate food that hasn't reached its "sell-by" date yet.

- Applesauce
- Canned Beans
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Fish (Tuna and Salmon)
- Canned Meat (SPAM and Ham)
- Canned Vegetables (Carrots, Corn and Spinach are Favorites)
- Cooking Oils (Olive and Canola, in small containers)
- Crackers
- Fruit (Canned or Dried)
- Granola Bars



- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Shelf Stable and Powdered Milk
- Meals in a Box — all inclusive kits Canned or Packaged Soup, Stew, Ramen and Chili Chef Boyardee Pasta and Meat (#1 request of children)
- Mac & Cheese
- Whole Grain Cereals
- Boxed Tea Bags, Jars or Cans of Instant or Ground Coffee,
- Powdered Non-Dairy Creamer
- Jar of Honey, Box of Sugar

## Why Not Make It a Meal?

When you pair up single canned, pre-packaged, non-perishable food donations, they become a meal. Be creative, place items next to each other or in a bag in the pantry. Keep in mind the size limitations of the pantry.

- Jar of Peanut Butter and Jelly with a Box of Crackers
- Boxed Cereal with Shelf-Stable or Powdered Milk
- Can of Tuna with a Box of Crackers
- Can of Soup with a Box of Crackers
- Box of Rice with Can of Beans
- Can of Chicken and Box of Rice
- Boxed Pancake/Waffle Mix with Jar of Syrup
- Individual Cereal Cup with Powdered Milk
- Box of Pasta with a Jar of Sauce

- **Casseroles:** Box of Pasta with Canned Cream Soup (like Cream of Mushroom), Canned Chicken or Tuna, and Canned Vegetables
- **Baking and Meal Mixes:** Baking Mixes (like Cake Mix) or Pasta/Rice Mixes that Require Only Water
- **Simple Soup:** Canned Vegetables, Can of Broth, Canned Chicken, Beans with Bag of Noodles
- **Simple Chili:** Canned beans and Diced Tomatoes, Canned Chicken with Packaged Chili Spice Mix

## Food for Thought: Snack Ideas for Kids

- Roasted, Crunchy Bean Snacks, like Edamame or Chickpeas
- Graham Crackers, Protein Cookies
- Rice Cakes or Rice Crisps
- Protein Bars or Snack Bars, Granola, Breakfast Bars or Biscuits
- Protein Chips
- Beef Jerky Snack Sticks
- Sweet & Salty Trail Mix
- Popcorn, Pretzels, Pita Chips, Sun Chips, or Cheese Puffs/Pirate's Booty
- Cheese Crisps
- Seaweed Snacks
- Veggie Straws
- Organic Fruit Snacks, Raisins or Dried Fruit
- Tuna Snack Packs on the Go with Crackers (Bumble Bee is a favorite)
- Single-Serve Bags of Baked or Freeze-dried Crunchy Apple Chips, Strawberry, Pear or Banana Chips
- On-the Go Applesauce Packs (any flavor variety)
- Annie's Organic Cheddar Bunnies



## Hygiene Care Items

- Diapers (all sizes),
- Feminine Hygiene Products,
- Incontinence Products (Male or Female)
- Soaps, Body Wash
- Shampoos/Conditioners
- Deodorant
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes



While these items are needed, they may not fit in every pantry. Email [RubysPantries@gmail.com](mailto:RubysPantries@gmail.com) for where you can bring these particular donations, or make arrangements for their donation.

## What to avoid

- Anything that needs refrigeration
- Perishable items, including fresh produce or dairy
- Expired items
- Glass containers, as they can break