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**Madison Originals member restaurants leading a food drive for 4 local food pantries**

MADISON - A group of Madison-area restaurants is giving diners the chance to make a difference in their communities this February.

All month long in February, over 30 members of Madison Originals, a non-profit association of local, independently-owned restaurants, will be collecting non-perishable food donations for its first annual "Mad Can" Food Drive to benefit 4 Madison-area food pantries. Each participating restaurant will have collection barrels for donations.

The pantries benefitting from the drive include Badger Prairie Needs Network, Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM), The River Food Pantry and Sunshine Place. Madison Originals is meeting the needs of area food pantries who are seeing record demand for their services. This demand is expected to grow in March when extra FoodShare benefits put into place during the pandemic come to an end. Madison Originals began collaborating with area food pantries, matching them with member restaurants wishing to collect donations for the pantry, based on geography and other needs to collect as many donations as possible.

"Food security for our neighbors is the most important thing and it's directly related to what we do," says Troy Rost, managing owner of 1847 at the Stamm House restaurant, one of six restaurants donating the proceeds of its drive to Middleton Outreach Ministry. "All of our little restaurants, we're all independent, so we're all local," Rost says. "Everybody wants to help the group in their own community, and diners know their donations will stay in the community. This is literally going to help people down the street."

"Madison Originals is a membership-based organization made up of locally-owned and operated restaurants," explains Sarah Niehaus, Director of Madison Originals. "These are individuals who work, live, and play in our community and see the needs of their neighbors every day. That's why this food drive was started - we see the need and we want to help. It's especially important because at this time of year, both restaurants and food pantries statistically see less traffic. This is a win-win for everyone."

For more information about the Mad Can Food Drive, including to find the list of participating Madison Originals restaurants, visit <https://www.madisonoriginals.com>.

**List of food pantries/participating restaurants**

**Badger Prairie Needs Network:**

Bonfyre American Grille  
Buck & Honey's - Waunakee  
Driftless Social  
Lombardino's Italian  
Old Feed Mill  
Ollie's  
Quivey's Grove  
Yola's Cafe

**The River Food Pantry:**

Bandit Tacos & Coffee  
Dotty Dumpling's  
Essen Haus  
Nitty Gritty - Downtown  
Parthenon Gyros  
Pig in a Fur Coat  
Porta Bella Restaurant  
Short Stack Eatery  
Topsy Cow - Downtown

**Middleton Outreach Ministry (MOM):**

1847 at the Stamm House  
Grape Water Wine Bar  
Imperial Garden West  
Longtable Beer Cafe  
Nitty Gritty - Middleton  
Buck & Honey's - Monona

**Sunshine Place:**

Banzo  
Buck & Honey's - Sun Prairie  
Daisy Cafe and Cupcakery  
Grampa's Pizzeria  
Mariner's Inn  
Nitty Gritty - Sun Prairie  
State Line Distillery  
Topsy Cow - Sun Prairie