



## WAUKESHA PUBLIC LIBRARY

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Bruce Gay, Library Director  
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### MEMORANDUM

**TO: Waukesha Public Library Board of Trustees**  
**FROM: Bruce Gay**  
**DATE: June 5, 2018**  
**SUBJECT: Food for Fines with Waukesha Reads**

Each year, as part of Waukesha Reads, the Library coordinates a community service project to benefit a local, non-profit. Last year, we collected more than 4,000 children's books for the Hope Center. This year, we are working with the Waukesha County Food Pantry. We propose a "Food for Fines" program to benefit both the food pantry and WPL patrons.

#### Why do Food for Fines?

- Bring in new users who want to donate to the Food Pantry; bring back users who had stopped using the Library due to fines.
- Potentially increase library use when borrowing privileges are restored to previously blocked cards.
- Demonstrate goodwill to the public AND benefit the community by collecting donations for the Food Pantry, at a low cost to the library.
- Positively impact our patrons and the community, without taking up too much staff time.
- Demonstrate our commitment to community and willingness to be an engaged community partner.

#### Details

- The project will run Monday, October 15 through Wednesday, October 31.
- During these dates, the Library will deduct money from existing Library overdue fines in exchange for non-perishable food donations.
- The Library will remove \$1.00 per food item donated from existing fines, and \$2.00 for boxed cereal. There will be no limit to the number of fines forgiven (per patron) in exchange for food.
- All other charges—such as replacements or damaged item fees—are not included. No credit for future fines. Deductions only for donating patron account.
- No expired, homemade, fresh food, candy, or ramen accepted (at the Food Pantry's request).
- Those who donate food but don't have fines will receive a \$0.50 off coupon from the Friends' Book Sale (pending approval by the Friends). Coupons will expire 12/31/18.
- The Food Pantry will drop off and pick up barrels for donations. They will also weigh the donated food.
- Waukesha Reads partners will be encouraged to participate as donation sites during October.

#### Evaluation—the library will track:

- Pounds of food donated,
- Total amount in fines waived,
- Number of patrons with waived fines,
- Friends coupons used by 12/31/18,
- October, 2017 compared with 2018 for fines received and circulation.

