

## Local News

### Area food pantry relocates to new site

A food pantry that helps Central Missouri military families and veterans has moved to a new location. by [Jeff Haldiman](#) Sep. 22 2020 @ 12:10am

*The News Tribune is offering this article free to all readers because it includes information important to public safety and health in our community.*

A food pantry that helps Central Missouri military families and veterans has moved to a new location. For nearly 16 years, the Mid-Mo Military Family Pantry had been located at the Missouri National Guard Armory on Armory Drive. The pantry was started in 2004 by Judy Minard, who has worked with the VFW as a family support group leader. She was joined by Patty LeComte in 2005 after she retired from the military.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit in the spring, the armory became a site where the state was sanitizing personal protective equipment, which meant the pantry was not accessible, LeComte said. "We've had people reaching out to us asking when the pantry would reopen, and the Missouri VFW reached out and offered to let us move in at their state headquarters," LeComte said. "A sign will be set out in front of the building on Thursdays to let people know that the pantry will be open." The Missouri VFW headquarters, where the food pantry will now operate 4-6 p.m. Thursdays, is located at 3405 Knipp Drive in Jefferson City.

"We usually get about 10-15 families in during that time," LeComte said. Donations for the pantry have come from a variety of sources, such as Operation Bugle Boy, Boy Scouts, area churches and auxiliary organizations. Recently the Jefferson City Rotary Breakfast Club did a service project at the pantry, purchasing and installing new shelves. "We couldn't have done it without those folks helping us out," LeComte said. "There have been times when it's been bare bones, but thanks to these folks we've been able to keeping it running for all these years."

LeComte said they have in past years held a special event during Christmas time and plan to do so again this year, but the details have yet to be worked out.

For more information about the Mid-Mo Military Family Pantry, call the Missouri VFW at 573-636-8761.