

Grant Report to the City of North Port

NP2 Grant Support for Awaken Outreach Center

Electric Pallet Jack Impact Report

Awaken Outreach Center is deeply grateful to the City of North Port for its support through the NP2 grant program. This funding made it possible for us to purchase an **APOLLOLIFT Electric Pallet Jack** which has made a meaningful and immediate difference in the daily operations of our food pantry and in our ability to serve neighbors in need with greater efficiency, safety, and dignity.

Purpose of the Equipment

Awaken Outreach Center operates a high-volume (between 275,000 to 300,000 pounds of food every month) food pantry that serves tens of thousands of families each year. Our team regularly receives, unloads, sorts, stores, and distributes large quantities of food and essential household items. Much of this work involves moving heavy pallets of canned goods, produce, beverages, frozen items, hygiene products, and other resources throughout our warehouse and distribution areas.

Before acquiring the electric pallet jack, moving these loads required significantly more manual labor, time, and physical strain on staff and volunteers. The pallet jack was purchased to improve our material handling capacity, reduce risk of injury, streamline operations, and strengthen our ability to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of our community.

Impact on Food Pantry Operations

The electric pallet jack has had a strong operational impact on our outreach center. It has allowed our team to move heavy pallets more quickly and with far less physical effort, which has improved workflow throughout the pantry. Receiving deliveries, organizing inventory, restocking distribution areas, and preparing for pantry days now happen more efficiently and safely.

This equipment has especially helped us in the following ways:

Improved efficiency: Staff and volunteers are able to transport large pallets of food and supplies much faster than before, saving valuable time during busy pantry days and large deliveries.

Enhanced safety: The electric pallet jack greatly reduces the physical strain associated with moving heavy loads manually. This has helped create a safer work environment for staff and volunteers and lowered the risk of lifting and handling injuries.

Better stewardship of volunteer time: Volunteers can spend less time struggling with heavy pallets and more time serving neighbors directly through sorting food, stocking shelves, greeting clients, and supporting distributions.

Greater capacity during high-volume operations: Awaken Outreach Center distributes millions of pounds of food annually. Having powered equipment allows us to handle higher inventory volume more effectively and maintain a smoother flow of food from receiving to distribution.

Improved organization and readiness: The equipment has helped us better manage warehouse space, move inventory to where it is needed most, and maintain a more orderly and responsive pantry operation.

Impact on Our Neighbors

The value of this equipment goes beyond internal operations. It directly benefits the neighbors we serve by helping us distribute food and essential items more effectively. When pantry operations run more smoothly, our neighbors experience shorter delays, more organized service, and more reliable access to needed resources.

The electric pallet jack supports our mission by helping ensure that food and supplies are moved into place quickly, distributions stay on schedule, and our team can remain focused on treating every person who comes through our doors with dignity and respect. In a high-demand environment where many families are facing food insecurity, rising housing costs, transportation barriers, and other financial pressures, operational efficiency matters. This equipment helps us serve more people well.

Community Value

The City of North Port's investment in this equipment has strengthened a critical community resource. Awaken Outreach Center is a trusted hub for food assistance and community care, serving neighbors throughout North Port and surrounding areas. The electric pallet jack has increased our ability to manage the scale and pace of our work while preserving the health and energy of the staff and volunteers who make that work possible.

This grant has been a practical and impactful investment in infrastructure that supports direct service delivery. It has helped improve the daily functioning of one of the city's key community support organizations and has contributed to our ongoing ability to meet local needs.

Gratitude

In summary, the NP2 grant-funded electric pallet jack has proven to be an essential operational asset for Awaken Outreach Center. It has improved safety, increased efficiency, reduced physical strain on staff and volunteers, and strengthened our capacity to serve neighbors experiencing

food insecurity. We are grateful to the City of North Port for this investment, which continues to produce tangible benefits for both our organization and the community we serve.

With gratitude,

Larry Grant
Awaken Outreach Center Director
