

BREADCRUMBS

June 2016

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
Celebrating Thirty-Two Years of Service to the Community

Pantry's Hunger Walk June 25th

The Greater Chicago Food Depository's 31st annual Hunger Walk will be held Saturday June 25th at Jackson Park (near Hyde Park). Volunteers and friends of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry will be talking the 2-mile course (down from 3.1 miles in past years) to help raise awareness about hunger in our communities.

Pantries and other organizations come together to create a large crowd with activities and music during the day. The Walk is the Pantry's biggest fund-raising event of the year, and past contributors are receiving letters explaining the walk and asking for donations. Students can receive volunteer service hours for participating!



Thousands of volunteers come together to walk at the Greater Chicago Food Depository's annual Hunger Walk.

as long as you want to walk it. At 2 miles, it should take less than an hour to walk the course. We'll hope to see you there!



The Pantry's Hunger Walk team gets ready to walk at the 2015 event. Join them this year at Jackson Park!

A link to our Hunger Walk page at the GCFD's website is available at our website (www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org). Or, you can go to the GCFD site (www.chicagosfoodbank.org), click on "Hunger Walk" under "Upcoming Events" and then click on the Pantry's logo on the Irving Park Food Pantry listing. From there you can donate or sign up to walk.

The walk opens for registration at 7 a.m. on the 25th, and the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. You can take



The walk offers entertainment of all kinds, including clowns, bands and amusements for kids.



Board Member (back left) Mike Mette and Executive Director John Psiharis accept food donations selected by the kids at Hawthorne Scholastic Academy and the Right at School Program Manager Lakiesha P. Dunn

Right at School, Peapod Join to Teach Students About Nutrition

Thank you to the after-school classes of students in the Right at School program at Beaubien Elementary School (5025 N. Laramie) and Hawthorne Scholastic Academy (3319 N. Clifton) for their donations to the Pantry!

The classes worked with the Peapod grocery delivery folks in a Kids Give Back project in which they learned about nutrition and eating well. Each class then received a \$200 credit from Peapod to order nutritious foods that Peapod delivered to them to donate to the Pantry. We appreciate their efforts on our behalf and for picking our Pantry to receive their donations

Farmers Markets June 12th & 26th



Please stop by the Pantry's booth at the GIPNA Farmers' Markets on June 12 and 26. Volunteers will be staffing our booth to accept monetary donations, hand out information and sell insulated tote bags (for a \$10 donation).

Pantry Needs Pet Food, Toiletries

The Pantry again is in need of pet food, especially cat food. We are one of only a few food pantries in the city to offer pet food to our clients, through a partnership with the Community Animal Rescue Effort (CARE). We work with a number of regular donors, but our supplies have dropped even as our list of clients wanting pet food grows. If you want to donate to the Pantry, please consider donating pet food, which we don't have access to through other sources.

We are always in need of toiletries (shampoos, soaps, razors, shaving cream, diapers, deodorants, feminine-hygiene products, toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste and toothbrushes). Travel-sized items are fine. We also need both men's and women's white crew socks.



AmazonSmile Pays Off for Pantry

Don't forget: If you sign up for the Amazon Smile program <https://smile.amazon.com/>, your purchases at Amazon will benefit the Pantry. Any time you enter Amazon through that bookmark, we receive 0.5% of all purchases, with no cost to you or changes to how you buy.

As an example, for the period January to March 2016, a slow period for purchases after Christmas, Amazon just sent us a check for more than \$20! That's free money, folks. We appreciate your help and support!

Pantry Serves 1,311 in April

In April, the Pantry served 1,311 people in 457 households, including 118 new people in 40 households and 96 people in 30 households during our Tuesday night hours.

Our volunteers also helped seven people in six households apply for SNAP benefits. Our Pet Food Corner gave pet food to about half of all of our households for dogs, cats, birds and other pets.

We appreciate all of your help to ensure we always can aid everyone who comes to our door. With your help, we will continue to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"