

BREADCRUMBS

July 2015

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



During a gardening class at the Pantry, Doreen Jordan (left) works with Marcin Skierkowski and Liz Mills near where the new Homegrown garden will be put in this summer at Irving Park United Methodist Church.

Pantry, IPUMC Plan Garden

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry is working with Three Brothers Garden and its host church, the Irving Park United Methodist Church, to create a Community Garden on the IPUMC campus. The Homegrown garden will be established this year on the northwest side of the church, near the Keeler Ave. entrance, and will go into full production next year. The garden, which will be partially funded by a generous grant from the FDC Foundation, will provide the Pantry with herbs and produce as well as teach clients how to grow their own.

A dedication ceremony will be held Saturday, July 25th. The church is seeking volunteers who will help with building the bed, planting, weeding and watering the garden throughout the summer. Plans for more raised-bed gardens are in the works for next year, and volunteers are needed to help design and build those containers, too. Donations of funds, plants, materials and supplies would be greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in helping with this endeavor, please email Pantry Volunteer Manager Lee Stein at volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org or Vicci Rodgers at viccirodgers@gmail.com.

Delgado Is Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to volunteer Debra Delgado, who was named the Pantry's Volunteer of the Year for 2014 at the Pantry's annual Volunteer Appreciation luncheon in May!



Debra Delgado (center) received her award as Volunteer of the Year from Volunteer Manager Lee Stein and Executive Director John Psiharis.

Debra is one of the Pantry's line leaders, coordinating the gathering of food bags and giving them to the clients as their numbers are called.

Joining the Pantry in 2011, Debra is an activist focused on ensuring mental-health services are available to all, and she is an avid participant in the annual Hunger Walk. We thank her for her devoted service and help.

The luncheon was held at La Villa this year, and we appreciate the help of Christina and Gwen in setting it up, making everything run smoothly!

Appreciation Awards Presented

Special appreciation awards were presented at the Pantry's Volunteer Luncheon to Lisa Albrecht, who handles our bookkeeping and financial needs, and to Craig Shutt, who provides marketing help through newsletters, Facebook posts, our community Breadcrumbs newsletter, brochures and other materials. He also fills in at various positions when needed during distributions.



Lisa Albrecht, the Pantry's bookkeeper, accepts her appreciation award at the Pantry's volunteer lunch.



Craig Shutt received an appreciation award for his marketing activities for Pantry at the lunch.

Pantry Needs School Supplies

The Pantry again will be distributing school supplies to our clients' children in August to ensure they start the school year strong. We are in need of crayons (24 pack), markers, colored pencils, loose-leaf paper, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors, rulers, erasers, #2 pencils and pens. Please keep us in mind as you shop this summer.

Donations can be dropped off at the bottom of the steps inside the Grace Street door of the church any time during church operating hours (call 773/283-6262 to check) or on Wednesday mornings and from 6 to 8 p.m. on July 14th.



Volunteer and SaveMax Depot owner Rafal Glaz gives his donation to John Psiharis and Lee Stein.

SaveMax Depot Makes Donation

Pantry Volunteer Rafal Glaz, owner of the SaveMax Depot, an office-products supplier (visit www.savemaxdepot.com), presented the Pantry with a check for more than \$400 from his program earlier this year offering a part of the profits from new and existing clients' toner purchases during March, April and May.

We appreciate his efforts on our behalf! Please contact us if your company would be interested in creating a program for donations or for employees to volunteer one week at the Pantry.

Pantry Serves 1,324 in May

In May, the Pantry served 1,324 people in 465 households, including 52 new people in 24 households and 122 people in 39 households during our Tuesday night hours.

The numbers have improved since April, when construction and limited parking in the neighborhood greatly reduced the number of clients who could visit. We expect them to continue to grow back to earlier totals as more clients are able to visit.

We also provided 225 households with pet food through our Pet Food Corner, operated in conjunction with the Community Animal Rescue Effort. Volunteers also helped five households apply for online SNAP benefits.

Thank you to everyone for your donations of time, money and effort on our behalf to ensure we remain Neighbors Helping Neighbors!