

# BREADCRUMBS

June 2015

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

## Walk with the Pantry on June 20<sup>th</sup>!

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Hunger Walk, sponsored by the Greater Chicago Food Depository, is being held on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Soldier Field. Volunteers with the Irving Park Community Food Pantry will be walking the 5-k (3.1-mil) route to raise awareness and add donations to purchase food.

Registration opens at 7 a.m., and the walk steps off at 8:30 a.m. You can join the Pantry team at [www.chicagosfoodbank.org](http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org) (search for "Irving") or through the link on our website ([www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org)). Each participant who includes our agency number (#A00113) on their form will earn the Pantry a credit from GCFD that goes directly into our food account.



*Hunger Walk participants prepare to step off in 2014.*

Participants don't even have to walk, just show up and turn in a registration form. That includes children and babies too! The event will include a variety of family-friendly activities, including musicians and performers. Students can receive volunteer service hours for participating if they contact the Pantry and arrange it in advance with Volunteer Manager Lee Stein at [volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org).

If you'd like to donate to the event, you can send a check made out to the Irving Park Food Pantry to the Pantry at 3801 N. Keeler Ave, Chicago IL 60641. Please indicate it's for the Hunger Walk and Agency #A00113. Or you can donate at our site. However you do it, we thank you for your support!



*The Hunger Walk includes scenic views walking around Soldier Field along the lakefront.*



*Kids of all ages are welcome and don't have to walk! Here volunteer Julie Kult poses with her children*

## Volunteer Spotlight: Lisa Albrecht

Lisa has the unenviable job of keeping track of all of the Pantry's financial accounts—although she also gets to see all the checks that arrive for donations and see how generous our neighbors can be. She works Wednesday mornings and also at home on bookkeeping matters.

Lisa was raised in Grosse Pointe, Mich., and moved to Chicago to become an assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A resident of Berteau Ave., she's been married for 20 years to Steve, a Pantry board member, and has two children, Adam (16) and Lauren (13).

She became involved with the Pantry to help her neighbors and to teach her children the importance of being active in the community. "They see us doing volunteer work at their school and in their neighborhood, and they understand how much a little bit of time can help so many others."



*Lisa at her desk in the far corner of the office.*

Lisa especially enjoys talking with all the volunteers she sees on Wednesday. "Since the Pantry hides me in the corner of the office, I enjoy talking with anyone who comes by to say hi!"

## Visit Us At The Farmers Markets

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry will be staffing a booth at the Independence Park Farmers Markets again this summer.

Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions, accept money and food donations, and sell our handy cooler bags.

The June markets will take place on June 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> this month.



*Mimi Nguyen works in the Pantry's kitchen area to prepare a Vietnamese dinner for volunteers in May.*

## Pantry News & Notes

Thank you to volunteer Mimi Nguyen, who cooked a delicious Vietnamese lunch for volunteers after the pantry closed on May 13<sup>th</sup> to share her heritage. Her menu included fried rice, fried shrimp, noodles, egg rolls and salad. A very healthy, spicy and scrumptious meal!

Representatives from the Puerto Rican Cultural Center continue to come to the Pantry each Wednesday to publicize and answer questions related to the Affordable Care Act. We appreciate their efforts to educate our clients and encourage them to register for health care.

The latest series of nutrition classes, which included 14 clients, ended on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Recruitment for the next series began on May 20<sup>th</sup>. We thank instructor Alicia Theofanis from the University of Illinois Extension Program for conducting the classes.

## Pantry Served 874 in April

In April, the Pantry served 874 people in 433 households, including 44 new people in 16 households and 117 people in 36 households during our Tuesday night hours.

These numbers were significantly down from earlier months and previous years most likely due to the construction that has disrupted access and limited parking in the neighborhood. Ideally, the disruptions will be ending this month.

We also provided 236 households with pet food through our Pet Food Corner, operated in conjunction with the Community Animal Rescue Effort. Volunteers also helped seven 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!