

BREADCRUMBS

June 2012

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
Celebrating Twenty-Eight Years of Service to the Community



Last year's Hunger Walk team helped raise more than \$16,000 for the Pantry's food account.

Hunger Walk is June 23rd!

Come walk with the Pantry at the 27th annual Hunger Walk, sponsored by the Greater Chicago Food Depository, on June 23rd! Registration begins at 7 a.m. and walkers will step off at 8:30 a.m.

The event consists of a 5K (3.2-mile) walk along the lakefront starting at Soldier Field. Participants don't even have to walk as long as they are present!

You can support the Hunger Walk in three ways:

- 1. Organize a Hunger Walk Team** of at least 10 walkers. Each walker signs up pledges to sponsor their walk.
- 2. Join the Pantry Team.** Individuals can join the Pantry team and raise funds.
- 3. Donate to a Hunger Walk Team.** Sign a walker's pledge sheet, bring a donation to the Pantry office or donate online at the Hunger Walk site.

For details, visit the Pantry website or ask Lee at the Pantry or at leesstein@spacecushion.com.

Jay, Jim Honored at Luncheon

Jay Skilton was named Volunteer of the Year, and Operations Manager Jim Byrne was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all his efforts on the Pantry's behalf at the Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at Sabatino's Restaurant on May 30th.

Volunteers were treated to a sumptuous five-course meal and received Pantry insulated shopping bags.



Jay Skilton (above) and Jim Byrne accept their awards from Lee, John and Kate at the Volunteer Luncheon at Sabatino's.





Joe Bobka helps unload Barbara Ries Murphy's food donation at the Pantry

Big Food Drive Aids Pantry

Barbara Ries Murphy ran a Facebook food drive for the Pantry during May, and her efforts brought in 23 boxes of food and four boxes of hygiene items—plus \$655 in cash donations!

Farmers Markets This Summer

There's still time to sign up to help out at this summer's GIPNA Farmers Market at Independence Park, (Irving Park and Hamlin Avenue). The Pantry volunteers answer questions and accept food and monetary donations.

There are still a few blanks on the sign-up sheet posted to the office door, so check it out. Each slot is for two hours (9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.) The park is in walking distance from the el and expressway. The remaining dates:

- * **June 24**
- * **July 15 and 29**
- * **August 12 and 26**
- * **September 9 and 23**
- * **October 14 and 28**

If you have questions, talk with Lee on Wednesday or at volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.org.

Thanks For Your Help!

In May, the Pantry served 1,762 people in 674 households, while 26 households with 44 people applied for food stamps. Half of our households also received pet food.

To provide that help, Pantry volunteers provide nearly 800 hours of service! Thanks for helping us serve our neighbors!

Volunteer of the Year: Jay Skilton

Jay Skilton has worked with the Food Pantry since the summer of 2008 and joined the Board of Directors in fall 2009. He handles the distribution to clients each week, serving as the person they all interact with as they pick up their food.

Jay was born and raised near Philadelphia, the youngest of four children. He came to the Midwest to attend Lake Forest College and “fell in love with Chicago,” he says.

After college, he returned to Pennsylvania and worked for many years for *TV Guide*. When it scaled back in the 1980s, he cut his ties and moved back to Chicago. “That was so many years ago.



Chicago has become my home.”

Jay continued his work in publishing, switching his focus from magazines to books. He started two successive textbook companies and retired in 2007 after the sale of the second to RR Donnelley. Jay also has been certified as a personal trainer. His interests include reading, movies, gardening, fitness, cooking, nutrition,

tennis, travel, photography and art.

A resident of Old Irving Park, Jay became aware of the Pantry through its Christmas distribution. “I believe there is a very real need for help right here in our own community. There is something so visceral about hunger. It is so basic, so tangible, so easy to feel, yet it is so wrong in a society as affluent as ours. I get a very rewarding sensation seeing someone very young or very old smile because of the simple act of giving to them food they so desperately need.”

New Website Address

Check out the new website at our old address: www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org. We had 1,030 visits in May! Thanks to Volunteer Manager Lee Stein for keeping it current!