

# BREADCRUMBS

December 2012

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



*Volunteers of all ages are welcome to help with setup for the Pantry's Holiday distribution on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>.*

## Christmas Distribution is Coming!

The Pantry's special Holiday distribution will be held on December 19<sup>th</sup> at our regular hours. A special setup will take place on Tuesday night, December 18<sup>th</sup>, from 7 to 9 p.m. to set up and prep bags, etc. You don't need to sign up for it, just come over if you're available.

Both set-up and the Holiday distribution require lots of different positions and more volunteers than usual. If you want to work in the Pantry (on distribution lines, directing clients, etc.), let Lee know right away.

If you *only* want to work in the Toy Room, either during setup or distribution, contact Vicci Rodgers at [viccirodgers@gmail.com](mailto:viccirodgers@gmail.com) or 773/282-0571.

Please do *not* show up to work on Wednesday without letting Lee or Vicci know, as too many people looking to help out can be a problem.

Thank you to everyone for helping with all the extra jobs required to deliver this special meal and gifts to our clients!

## Pantry Seeks New Board Members

The Pantry is seeking new board members. If you are passionate about fighting hunger in our community, please consider joining our group of men and women who help keep the Pantry running smoothly, as it has for 28 years.

The commitment includes attending board meetings and participating on committees to help plan the Pantry's future. If interested, contact John at [info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org](mailto:info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or 773/283-6296.

## Donate Through Whole Foods

Please remember that Whole Foods Sauganash (6020 N. Cicero Ave) has named the Pantry its "One Dime at a Time" recipient through December 31<sup>st</sup>. The program gives customers a 10¢ credit on their grocery bill for each reusable bag they use to carry their groceries. Customers can donate that credit this month to the Pantry. So please tell your friends, shop Whole Foods, and use reusable bags wherever you shop!



## Special Thanks to IPUMC

A special thank you to pastor Katherine Paisley and the congregation of Irving Park United Methodist Church for taking an offering of food and money for the Pantry at its Thanksgiving celebration on November 21<sup>st</sup>. They also are allowing clients to wait in the sanctuary during our cold winter months ahead!



*Jim and Rick need a few good volunteers for Mondays.*

## **Monday Set-Up Help Needed**

Volunteer Manager Lee Stein is looking for some early risers to help prepare the pantry space for our clients. Currently, Jim Byrne, Rick Leitl, Les Washington, Ken Mack, Eileen Poepfel, and Magda Agudo arrive at 6 a.m. to set up. Also, Jonathan Schwartz (Pet Food Corner) and Jen Pavlus are coming in at 8 a.m. Please let Lee know if you are willing to come in early to help with set-up.

We also need volunteers to help Jim and Rick unloading trucks on Monday mornings. The truck arrives between 9 and 9:30 with its pickups. Unloading the groceries usually takes about an hour—and with more people, it goes even faster!

## **Donated Foods Needed**

If anyone asks, we have an ongoing need for specific staples that are in short supply due to government cutbacks. Even the GCFD can't meet our needs, so donations are a big help.

We especially need rice, macaroni and cheese, dried beans, cookies, chips, crackers, Jell-O, soup, pasta, pasta sauce, energy snacks, canned meat (tuna, chicken, other fish), canned fruits and vegetables and cereal.

In addition, we always are in need of men's white crew socks as well as shampoos, soaps, toothpastes, toothbrushes, and razors. Travel sizes are welcome. We *cannot* use clothes, so please let people know not to bring it in..

## **Spotlight: Keshia Burton**

One of the first Pantry people that clients meet on each visit is Keshia Burton, who is part of the intake team. She began working with the manual system and learned the computerized program that has sped up processing clients. She also keeps them in line with occasional announcements and requests to be polite and patient.

Keshia was born in Chicago and has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. She currently is working on her Master's degree in Social Work at Harold Washington Community College.



*Keshia prepares for the morning rush of clients at her intake post.*

Last year, she learned about the Pantry and thought it would be a good way to help people with her spare time. "I love helping and working with people," she says.

She has worked with Leslie on the USDA line as well as doing intake. "I really like talking with the patrons each week as part of their visit, and being a part of the Pantry workers," she says. "We have a wonderful group of clients. And all of the volunteers are very friendly and dedicated."

## **Pantry Closings**

The Pantry will be closed two weeks in a row, on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We'll reopen on January 9<sup>th</sup>—probably with a big crowd. So enjoy your holiday break and be ready for a happy and busy New Year!