

BREADCRUMBS

February 2013

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

Thank You for Holiday Help!

Our holiday distribution on December 19th provided 1,350 people in 407 households with the fixings for a holiday meal. We also gave out toys and books to about 350 of our clients' kids.

We had 35 volunteers set up the previous night and 63 worked the toy room and the pantry the next day. Thank you to all for your help!



John Arena, alderman for the 45th (our) district, worked the three- to four-person households line with Nick and other volunteers.



Kate, Jay and Joyce get into a festive spirit.



Nora, Gloria and Anne take a break from their intake work to smile for the camera.



Hogan and Lee take a break during the distribution to show they're still going strong.



Bridget and Carol worked the ineligible registration table during the distribution. Some 65 households with nearly 140 people were served by this station.

FDC Expands Grant for 2013

The FDC Foundation has approved a grant to the Pantry for its Fresh Produce for Better Health Initiative and its client-services program. The grant, for \$30,000, represents a doubling of the funds we received last year, which in turn were higher than the previous year.

The grant will fund our purchases of fresh produce to distribute each week to our clients and the resources and activities of Community Resources Coordinator Belma Torres for the coming year.

We are grateful to FDC for giving us such generous support and especially board member Susan Patke for her efforts on our behalf. Special thanks also to volunteer Gloria Price for preparing our proposal and for her efforts to foster a close relationship with the foundation.



Nate Cropp from Edward Jones Investments (4339 W. Irving Park Rd.) stopped by the Pantry in January to give John a check for \$450. The money was donated by movie-goers who saw "It's a Wonderful Life" just before Christmas at the Patio Theater, sponsored by Nate.

Food Drive Brings 78 Boxes!

Thanks also to Barbara Ries Murphy, who worked with Ted's Place (4425 N. Central), to hold a food drive for the Pantry, promoting it on her Facebook page.

The drive culminated in a party January 18th, with a final total of 78 boxes of food, three boxes of personal-care items and more than \$1400! We appreciate all her efforts and the donations of everyone involved!

Volunteer Spotlight: Pam True

You'll often see Pam True running the closet station during distributions, but she's worked a number of jobs, including registration and all of the food lines. She also has helped with the Easter basket and Christmas toy distributions.



Pam recently has been helping out in the office on some mailing and organizational projects.

"I enjoy giving back to the community, and the volunteers are wonderful people to work with," she says. "And our clients really need the services we provide."

Pam grew up in Chicago and is a nurse practitioner, holding an M.S. degree in nursing. She has worked in a number of hospitals and clinics in the area and was a school nurse in the Chicago Public School system for 21 years.

She began working at the Pantry 3 ½ years ago, after reading about the Pantry in the Tribune. "I really enjoy getting to know the clients and helping them however I can."

Be a Bunny for Pantry in March

The Irving Park Community Food Pantry again will be distributing Easter bags to its clients for their children on Wednesdays in March (Easter is March 31).

We are collecting goodies (candy, snacks, small toys, etc.) for children in the age categories of under 2, 2 to 5, and 6 to 8 years old. Questions can be directed to Vicci Rodgers at viccirodgers@gmail.com.