

BREADCRUMBS

November 2012

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

Senator Durbin Visits Pantry!

U. S. Senator Dick Durbin visited the Irving Park Community Food Pantry (IPCFP) on September 26th to learn about our operation and how we help clients apply online for SNAP (food stamps) benefits. He spoke with several volunteers about our operation as well as clients. His visit was organized by the Greater Chicago Food Depository.



John talks with Senator Durbin as Kate looks on.

The Senator also held a press conference outside the Pantry at Keeler and Grace to discuss the pending Farm Bill, which passed the Senate but was held up in the House. A House proposal would terminate SNAP eligibility to several million people.



Jay gets some TV time as the media visited the Pantry with Senator Durbin



Whole Foods Supports Pantry

IPCFP is the current "One Dime at a Time" recipient at Whole Foods Market at Sauganash (6020 N. Cicero Ave) through December 31st.

The program gives customers a 10¢ credit on their grocery bill for each reusable bag they use to carry their groceries. Through December, customers have the option of donating that credit to the Pantry.

Last quarter's recipient received \$1,700! So please tell your friends, shop Whole Foods, and use reusable bags wherever you shop!

November Schedule Changes

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will be closed on the 21st and will re-open on the 28th.

The traditional Thanksgiving groceries will be included in the regular distributions on the 7th, 14th and 28th.

If you won't be able to be here, please let Lee know at 312-608-1465.



Intake volunteers ready their stations for clients.

Computerized Intake Successful

Thanks to all of our volunteers for helping to make the computerization of our intake system so smooth and successful! Your efforts helped ensure that food distributions moved quickly and efficiently.

Special thanks to those who gave time and effort to ensure it ran smoothly. That includes Lee Stein, Belma Torres, Carol Schultz, Sandra Schwarzbeck and computer guru Dan Irizarry, who took off work the first week to help us stay on track. Thanks also to all who helped rearrange the intake area and find a system that worked effectively for everyone.

Thanks also to Gloria Price, who is working on grant proposals that will cover the cost, which otherwise is covered by our general donations.



Anne Mette (center) and Jen Pavlus (right) helped client Raquel Sypien select a coat early in October.

Coat Program Rebounds

After nearly running out of coats (causing us to cancel our distribution on October 24th), our donation of coats rebounded with a good supply on the 31st. Thanks to everyone who donated and helped distribute coats to clients so they could have a warmer winter!

Wine Tasting Sets Record

Attendees at our fourth Wine Tasting Benefit at Mirabell Restaurant (3454 West Addison) on Sept. 9th saw something unusual: a Redmoon Theater actor serving wine atop a tall, old-fashioned and fanciful bicycle.

About 70 people enjoyed wines from three hemispheres and five countries while bidding on the wonderful items in the silent auction. The program took in more than \$4,000, setting a record for our wine-tasting benefits.

Thanks to Janet Middleton and Vicki Ross, who served as co-chairs, and to owner Jeff Heil of Mirabell for donating the space and yummy hors' d'oeuvres.



John (taking picture) and Belma are among the guests at the Pantry's wine tasting fund-raiser in September.

Thanks also go to Gloria Price, who oversaw operation of the silent auction, Sandra Schwarzbeck for coordinating behind-the-scenes efforts and, Eron Easter, Anna Besmann, Carol Schultz, Joyce Benninghouse, and Lee Stein.

We appreciate the efforts by Richard Bradley to coordinate the silent auction and to the donors: Cynthia Santos, Café 28, Peter Litton & Sharon Parke, Lucky Dog Day Care, Moonlight Designs Glass Studio, the Portage Restaurant, Sabatino's Restaurant and Southern Brands.

New Board Members Wanted!

The Pantry is seeking new board members. If you are passionate about our work and have ideas and time to commit to improving our efforts, we are interested in talking with you. It will require meeting attendance and work on committees.

If interested, talk to John on Wednesday, email him at info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org or call call 773-283-6296 or. Thank you for all your efforts!