

BREADCRUMBS

January 2009

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

THANK YOU! Thank you!

Over the Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday periods, many people and organizations organized food and toy drives as well as other fundraising or volunteer efforts to help the Pantry.

Our thanks go out to Chicago Academy High School, Chicago International Charter School – Irving Park Branch, St. Viator's Church, St. Edward's School Student Council, UNITE Civic Organization, Joe E's Unforgettable Lounge, Our Lady of the Resurrection Medical Center employees, Giving Back to the Hood, Old Irving Park Association, Terraces of Old park Town Home Association, Belding School, Irving Park Lutheran Church, Lane Tech High School book drive, Community Savings Bank, Starbucks, Girl Scouts of Independence Park, West Walker Civic Association, Carter Westminster Presbyterian Church, Roosevelt University Bright Stars Program, Allstate Insurance, Jewel/Osco, Koch Foods, Victory Schools – Chicago Region, Mt. Olive Church, Mike Metti family and many others.

With the generous donations of food, money, toys and time, we were again able to help our clients make their holidays a little more joyful.

The following organizations have organized food drives in the upcoming months:

Irving Park United Methodist Church: (January, 2009) 3801 N Keeler Ave, Chicago, IL 60618. The Church is home to our Pantry and we are grateful for all of the support we receive from IPUMC.

Roosevelt High School: (Jan. 1 to Jan. 23rd, 2009) 3436 W Wilson Ave., Chicago, IL 60625 (773) 534-5000 Contact Barry Jeong, Advisor.

Park View Lutheran Church: (February, 2009) 3911 N Monticello Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. (773) 267-0072.

Irving Park Lutheran Church (April, 2009) 3938 W. Belle Plaine Ave., Chicago, IL 60618. (773) 267-1666.

Irving Park Baptist Church: (March, 2009) 4401 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641. (773) 286-6800.

Schurz High School (TBA) 3601 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60641. (773) 534-3420.

Please support these organizations as they help us feed our neighbors.

Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Distributions

The Pantry served 1106 people at the Thanksgiving Distribution on November 19th and 1143 people at the holiday distribution on December 17th. This is in addition to the regular weekly food distributions. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and volunteered with the distributions. Everything went smoothly in spite of the bad weather and everyone was served. The young children enjoyed a visit with Santa and their parents were able to select toys from the toy room. This is a huge effort and can't be accomplished without a lot of planning and time. Thank you to everyone.

Also, Jewel donated complete turkey meals at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Families from our Pantry were notified and were able to pick up the food. The Jewel/Osco store at Six Corners continues to be a good friend to the Pantry.

December Statistics

- 2,427 people served
- 830 families served
- More than 20,000 pounds of food distributed

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Every week when we arrive at the Pantry, the coffee is ready and the cookies/donuts are out for our clients to enjoy while they wait for their food. The kitchen volunteers do a great job of keep the coffee coming. They also separate and package food for distribution and do many other tasks as needed, including helping on the line.

Who are these people? This month, we will focus our attention on one of the "kitchen ladies".

Linda Torrez was born in Chicago. Her father came from Switzerland and her mother from Lithuania so she is a first generation American. She went to school at Perry School, which is located at Hirsch and Harlem and was raised on the south side. She lived in Georgia for 25 years and worked at a Ford plant there. She also worked as a waitress for ten years. She and her husband moved back to Chicago four years ago to be closer to her elderly mother-in-law. She has a son with her first husband and her current husband has four daughters and many grandchildren.



Linda is a member of the Irving Park Baptist Church and helps the pastor on Tuesdays. She has been volunteering at the Pantry for three years. She and her husband live near Irving and Kimball and have a very spoiled cocker spaniel.

Thank you Linda for everything you do for the Pantry.

NEWS

The following letter was received at the Pantry in December:

Happy Holiday!

John, we at CICS-Irving Park Campus would like to take the time to thank you for allowing us to be a part of the wonderful work that you all selflessly do year round. Our students are learning to be caring and compassionate citizens when they participate in community projects like

the food drive. They were excited last year when the collected 450 items to help families that are in need. This year you can imagine the joy they felt when we told them that they had collected 946 items to help families through this Holiday Season.

So on behalf of CICS-Irving Park, "**Thanks for Giving**" us this opportunity to help you help others.

Brenda Webb
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contact us

If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter or need more information, you can contact Carol Schultz at schultzfamily02@aol.com or the Pantry at irvpkfoodpantry@aol.com.