

BREADCRUMBS

June 2009

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

HUNGER WALK

Currently celebrating our 25th year of service to the Northwest side of Chicago, our Pantry is experiencing a 30% increase this year in the numbers of people we regularly serve. The Pantry has been able to provide food for everyone; however we will need to purchase more food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository this year to continue to do so.

Our biggest fund raiser of the year is the Hunger Walk. This year the Walk will be held on June 20th. Every dollar raised by walkers and sponsors on behalf of our Pantry will go directly into our account at the Food Depository. From the money in this account we purchase food all year for an average of 7 to 10 cents a pound.

Here's how you can support us:

- Go to the Irving Park Community Food Pantry Hunger Walk Team Page: www.chicagosfoodbank.org/goto/irvparkfoodpantry. Through this web page you can sponsor a walker online, you can form your own walking team for our Pantry or you can make a direct donation online.
- If you don't want to go online but want to walk and/or gather sponsors for us, please see Kate or John in the Pantry office for a pledge form and registration sheet. Make sure all checks are made out to The Greater Chicago Food Depository and importantly – include our **Pantry Code #A00113** on the check.
- Or simply send a check the Irving Park Community Food Pantry at the address below or give it to me the next time we meet. The check should be made out to The Greater Chicago Food Depository and importantly – include our Pantry Code #A00113 on the check.

SHOP AND SHARE

Another way you can help the Pantry is to use the Shop and Share coupons at any Jewel/Osco. Our days are June 22, 23 and 24 – June 29, June 30 and July 1 – and July 6, 7 and 8. Coupons are available in the Pantry office.

VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON

For many years, the Pantry has held a volunteer luncheon to honor and thank our many volunteers for all their efforts to help feel our neighbors during the past year. During this most difficult year, the Board of Directors voted to hold the luncheon at a restaurant to show our appreciation to our loyal and dependable volunteers. Sabatino's Restaurant offered to help offset the cost of the luncheon and on May 27th, thirty-seven



of us gathered to eat a delicious lunch, socialize with our fellow workers, and honor this year's volunteer of the year: Kate Roche. Kate has been volunteering since 2002 and is now serving as President of the Board of Directors. This award was made in honor of Kate's many efforts in getting the good works of our Pantry known to the public and endless hours spent on behalf of the pantry. Thank you, Kate, for all your work!

STATISTICS

In the month of May 2009 we served 1,535 people in 542 households. We had 187 new people in 68 families. Just for comparison purposes, in the month of May 2008, we served 1,175 people in 399 families.



VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH

Vania Bandelli started volunteering last fall and has quickly become one of our regulars, stepping in wherever needed with a smile and a helping hand.

She is originally from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Both sets of her grandparents had emigrated from Italy to Brazil. She and her husband, Andre Byczkowski, came to Chicago in 1986 to study and fell in love with our city and decided to make it their home. She has a degree in advertising from Universidade Paulista in Brazil and also in fashion merchandising from Ray College of Chicago.

She and Andre originally had a business selling and servicing cash registers and other retail equipment. They sold the business and she started working in international marketing, focusing on developing American businesses throughout Latin America. For the last three years, Vania has been consulting with small businesses that want to expand their businesses overseas.

She has two daughters, Deborah who is currently in college, and Clara who is in high school.

Vania comes from a family that has always tried to help the less fortunate. Since she moved to our neighborhood eight years ago, she had been hearing about the good work the pantry does in our community and decided to give of her time. She was immediately welcomed into our volunteer community and says she enjoys her time spent with us on Wednesdays



Vania enjoys traveling, reading (loves the Independence Branch of the Chicago Public Library), entertaining and meeting new people.

NEWS

FOOD DRIVES

Faith United Church of Christ, 5051 W. Belle Plaine Avenue - May 15 – June 15

Dr. James (Bill) Smith, Taylor Rehabilitation and Wellness Center – through June 30

Little Helpers Community Services, 4201 N. Elston – Pets and people – ongoing

HELP FROM WASHINGTON

Truckloads of food are coming to Illinois food banks next month, thanks to some federal funding. The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act is intended to help feed the increasing number of families in need. Also, average households of four receiving food stamps will see benefits go up by \$80 this month.

Sen. Dick Durbin was at a pantry in Des Plaines recently to discuss the funding and why it's so important.

"More and more people are showing up who never dreamed that they'd ever be doing this. but they're in a position in their life where they have no place else to turn. and we have to make sure that this good and caring nation and the people that live in it are there to give them a helping hand," said Durbin.

Senator Durbin says local food banks are reporting a 30 percent increase in the number of people requesting help over last year.

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.