

BREADCRUMBS

November 2008

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Jewel-Osco

The Pantry, through the efforts of our Director, John Psiharis and our past Director, Barb Cohn, has established a relationship with the Six Corners Jewel-Osco store that is benefitting us in several ways.

First of all, some time ago, Barb applied to Jewel-Osco for a donation of green grocery bags for distribution to our clients. Jewel has agreed and we picked up 500 bags! We plan to begin giving them to our clients at the Thanksgiving distribution. We will ask that they bring them back to us each time they pick up their food so we can reuse them and save the Pantry money and save our landfills. Good job Barb!

Secondly, this fall John approached the Jewel-Osco at Six Corners about starting a relationship with the Pantry. As you may know, the Six Corners store has just finished a major renovation. As part of their grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony, John and Carol Schultz, representing the Board of Directors of the Pantry, received a \$1,000 check made out to the Pantry.



As part of the grand opening, several volunteers from our Pantry sold Johnsonville brats to Jewel customers in front of the store on Saturday, October 25th. It was a little cool, but we huddled around the giant grill and we made \$971 selling brats from 11:00 – 2:00! Those helping included: John Psiharis, Barb Cohn, Carol Schultz, Nick Calderone, Molly Melick, Eileen Poeppel, and Pat and Bob Eisenhart. Thanks to Jewel who donated the personnel to grill the brats and donated all the food, the Jewel employees who responded quickly to

our needs for more of everything, and the Jewel employees who helped support us by buying their lunch from us that day. We had a good time and made some good money so it was time well spent.

It looks like this is just the beginning of a wonderful relationship between the Six Corners Jewel-Osco and the Pantry. Thanks to everyone.

SPAGHETTI DINNER & BASKET RAFFLE

The Spaghetti Dinner and raffle was a success again this year. We made a profit of \$1,676 from the event. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and money. A special thanks to Irma Wevang for once again preparing a wonderful meal while remaining cool, calm and collected. Good job everyone!

October Statistics

- 1,848 people served
- 611 families served
- 14,975 pounds of food distributed

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVES

Girl Scouts Troops 1123 and 756: These troops just completed their annual food drive and collected \$478 and 2,753 items for the Pantry. As always, thank you Girl Scouts!

Community Canvas & Food Drive: Sunday November 23rd between 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm. Mt. Olive is located at 3850 N Tripp in Chicago. For further information or to register on-line visit www.mtoliveEFCA.org. This event is supported by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Community Food Drive: Joe'E's...Unforgettable Lounge (November 1 - November 30, 2008) is collecting non-perishable food items for the Pantry. Every Wednesday and Saturday in November, bring in one non-perishable food item and receive your second drink

free. Drop-off location: 4206 W. Irving Park Road, Chicago, IL 60641. Please call: 773-283-3422.

Community Food Drive: Chicago International Community Canvas & Food Drive: Mt. Olive Evangelical Free Church will be organizing a community canvas and drive to benefit the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. Please volunteer to help. Volunteers are needed on Saturday November 15th and Sunday November 16th between the hours of 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm to distribute fliers in the neighborhood. Volunteers are also needed on Charter Schools - Irving Park (November 1 - November 30, 2008). Drop off location: 3820 N Spaulding, Chicago, IL 60618. Please call: 773-433-5015.

Community Food Drive: Parkview Lutheran Church (November 1- November 30, 2008). Drop off location: 3919 N Monticello, Chicago, IL 60618. Please call 773-267-0072.

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



Alfreda Rommel and her husband, Bob, have been fixtures at the Pantry for the last five plus years. Before they came to us they directed a soup kitchen for nine and a half years. When they shut the soup kitchen down, they were looking for another place to help feed the hungry in their neighborhood and the Irving Park Community Food Pantry welcomed them with open arms and hearts.

Alfreda was born in Indiana. When she moved to Chicago she attended Lake View High School. She and Bob met at a church bowling outing and the rest, as they say, is history. She worked at Illinois Bell/Ameritech/SBC/AT&T for twenty years before she retired. She and Bob have three children, six grandchildren and one great grandchild (surely that last part can't be true!).

Alfreda sang on a praise team at her church (Mt. Olive) and is on the Board of Senior Link Alliance. In that capacity she worked with Thrivent for Lutherans' representative organizing fund raisers. She also does outreach at churches in the area, talking about organizations such as food pantries and Senior Link Alliance. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Pantry is a valued volunteer on Wednesdays.

Bob has been under the weather lately so we haven't been seeing his smiling face at the Pantry on Wednesdays. We all hope he's doing better soon.

Thanks, Alfreda, for all you do for the Pantry and by the way, I don't think you're bossy at all! 😊

HOLIDAY DISTRIBUTIONS

Our special *Thanksgiving Distribution* will take place on Wednesday, November 19th. Clients must have pre-registered and meet participation requirements for this special distribution.

Our special *Christmas Distribution* will take place on Wednesday December 17th. Clients must have pre-registered and meet participation requirements for this special distribution.

PANTRY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Due to the holidays, the Pantry will be closed for regular distributions on November 26th and December 24th and 31st. In January, the regular weekly schedule will resume.

Toys, Toys, Toys!

We are collecting toys and games to be distributed to our clients during the Christmas Distribution. Please help us make a difference in the lives of the children of our clients. A donation of items, cash or gift cards to Toys-R-Us or other major retailers will be used to purchase gifts.

NEWS

An organization in our neighborhood is opening a new Head Start program. We expect that a number of our clients' children will qualify for this program. In an effort to get the word out, they will be sending us a permanent pantry volunteer in exchange for us putting a flyer about the program in our bags. Sounds like a win – win situation for both of us.

Also, a special thank you to Allstate for their support. They sent us seven volunteers that we put quickly to work. And also, thank you to West Walker for their donation of proceeds from the Fall Harvest event they held.

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.