

BREADCRUMBS

October 2009

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

Welcome to the October 2009 edition of the newsletter designed for the volunteers and friends of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry. The Board of Directors of the Pantry recognizes that the strongest asset of the Pantry is our volunteer staff. Thanks to you all and have a great summer.

Greater Chicago Food Depository Award

On September 25th, John Psiharis and Kate Roche were presented by the Greater Chicago Food Depository with the 2009 Best Pantry – Community Outreach Award. The award included a \$500 cash prize. Kate and John feel they owe this honor to our great volunteers and generous community support. Great job volunteers!



John and Kate receiving the award from Pastor Leonardo Gilbert, Board Vice Chair and Kate Maehr, Executive Director

Statistics

For the month of September 2009, we served 1,929 people in 672 households. This is an increase of 32.6% over September, 2008.

Year- to-date, we have served 14,127 people in 4,700 families, which is an increase of 28% over last year.

Wine Tasting Fundraiser

A successful wine tasting fundraiser was held on Saturday, October 16th at the home of Peter Litton and Sharon Parke.

The Pantry is grateful to the Wine Tasting Committee (Jennifer McGowan, Peter Litton, Katie Kozisek, Elizabeth Cunningham and Barbara Cohn) for their hard work and especially Peter and Sharon for sharing their home.



Volunteer of the Month

Carol Schultz has been volunteering at the Pantry for about ten years and serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors. She fills in at many of the jobs as needed and works with the Express Stamps program some weeks. Here's a little bit about her:

Carol was born a long, long time ago in Kitchener, Ontario which is about 60 miles from Toronto. She moved to a small town about 20 miles from Toronto and graduated from Brampton Centennial High School. Her dad was in sales and the family had to move several times as his job moved him

around the country. Just after she graduated from high school, she and her two sisters moved with her mom and dad to Oxford, Ohio and she attended Miami University. The moving bug must have been in her blood because she moved to Louisville, KY for about 8 years before she settled in Chicago.



About eleven years ago Carol “retired” from her job as an office manager for a large software company to stay home with her kids. That’s when she started volunteering at their elementary school and the Pantry. She now works part time for the Chicago Real Estate Council, a nonprofit networking organization as a meeting planner and administrator.

Carol and her husband, Jon, have two almost grown up kids, Becky (now a freshman at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN) and Mike (a senior at Walter Payton College Prep and an aspiring film maker). They all live in Portage Park.

Express Stamps

The new **Express Stamps Pilot Program** has brought the Pantry increased visibility with the visit of Julie Paradis, Administrator of the USDA Food and Nutrition Program, along with other regional, state and Greater Chicago Food Depository administrators including Kate Maehr, GCFD Executive Director. They were here to see the program in operation and were also impressed with our ability to serve the numbers we do while only being open once per week. We are grateful for and **proud of our volunteers** for their enthusiastic contributions to the success of the Express Stamps program.

Upcoming Events

On Wednesday, November 18, the Pantry will be distributing Thanksgiving dinner ingredients to our clients. Extra help will be needed the evening before to help set up the tables and food for this large distribution as well as on Wednesday. The Pantry will be closed November, Wednesday 25th in order for our volunteers to enjoy their Thanksgiving holidays with their families.

Similarly, on Wednesday, December 16 we will have our special holiday distribution when we provide our clients with the food for a holiday meal as well as toys for our eligible clients. Once again, help is needed the night before and the

day of the distribution. The Pantry will be closed both December 23rd and December 30th.

Did You Know?

In October, one of our Board members donated a car to the Pantry through the Charitable Auto Resources organization. The Pantry received nearly \$800. Through this new program, you receive a charitable deduction and all proceeds stay in the community. More details will be coming soon.

Food Drives

Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 12756, Mount Olive Church and St. Viator’s School for sponsoring food drives.

Did You Ever Wonder...

What is going on with the cooking class on Wednesdays? This is a nutrition seminar sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension Services. Alicia Theofanis is the instructor. This fall we have 19 clients involved in the program. And they share their meal with the volunteers!

Child Nutrition Law Up for Review

This fall, Congress will review the law that authorizes federally funded child nutrition programs. The legislation includes the school breakfast and the National School Lunch Programs, the Sumer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The legislation encompasses the Greater Chicago Food Depository’s Kids Café and Nourish for Knowledge programs that ensure low-income children across Cook County have access to the nutritious food they need to learn and succeed.

To help achieve President Obama’s goal of ending childhood hunger by 2015, get involved by signing up for the Food Depository’s action alerts by going to www.chicagofoodbank.org and clicking “Advocate.” For more information, call the Food Depository at 773-247-3663.

In Illinois, more than 1.1 million children participate in the National School Lunch Program, getting free or reduced price lunches at school. The School Breakfast Program serves 275,469 schoolchildren in Illinois. Nearly 295,000 Illinois residents participated in WIC in 2007. It is estimated that 33 percent of those served by the Greater Chicago Food Depository are children. Let’s all help keep these programs alive.

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.