

# BREADCRUMBS

September 2013

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

## Pantry Opens Tuesday Night!

The Pantry is now open on the second Tuesday night of each month. We will operate from 6 to 8 p.m. beginning this month on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, with set-up taking place from 4 to 6 p.m.

These new hours will help us expand our service to new clients unable to come to the Pantry during our usual hours on Wednesday mornings. We have been signing up a lot of new clients in recent months, and we hope this expansion will bring in many more new people.

Special thanks to the Kraft Feeding Possibilities grant program for helping to fund this expansion and to the Irving Park United Method Church for their support.

Many new volunteers have contacted us to help out with these new hours. If you would like to volunteer to help during either the new set-up or distribution times, contact Volunteer Manager Lee Stein at [volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.com](mailto:volunteer@irvingparkfoodpantry.com).



## See Us At The Farmers Market

Join us at the GIPNA Independence Park Farmers Market on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Volunteers will be there to accept food and money donations, answer questions, hand out brochures and sign up anyone for our emailed newsletter.



## Wine-Tasting Benefit Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>

The Pantry's annual wine-tasting benefit will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Mirabell restaurant (3454 W. Addison Ave.). Tickets are \$40 apiece, with funds used to aid our food-purchasing budget.

A variety of wines from around the world (comprising North and South America, Europe and Oceania) will be available, and a silent auction will be run with merchandise and services supplied by local contributors.

For tickets, contact Janet Middleton at [janetkmiddleton0@gmail.com](mailto:janetkmiddleton0@gmail.com). More information will be available on Facebook and on our website ([www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org)) as the date draws near.

## Hunger Walk Raises Funds

This summer's Hunger Walk raised more than \$15,000 for the Pantry, with several teams of volunteers walking 3.2 miles at Lake Michigan.

Thanks to Lisa Albrecht, Craig Shutt and Lee Stein for their efforts on behalf of this event and to all who donated to help us help our neighbors.

## Major Donations Aid Pantry

The Pantry is happy to report that the congregation at the Gethsemane Romanian Pentecostal Church (3838 N. Elston Ave.) donated \$15,000 to the Pantry. It was part of the proceeds from the sale of their church building. We are very grateful that they remembered us!

The Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago has renewed our grant from Operation Rice Bowl for \$1,500. The funds will be used to underwrite expenses associated with our regular Nutrition classes, run three times a year by Alicia Theofanis of the University of Illinois Extension Program.

A \$2,500 gift was received from a supporter who made a memorial donation to the Pantry, requesting that it be used for a program other than our regular food purchases. It will be used to help maintain our truck, which we use to pick up food and donations from the various markets and businesses that support us each week.



*The Lyons family prepares supplies for distribution.*

## School Supply Program A Hit

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our annual school-supply distribution, which took place throughout August. The Pantry gave out 442 bags!

Thanks especially to Mike Mette for making of our purchasing runs, and to Magic Mushroom Summer Program, Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, Carter Westminster Presbyterian Church and Walgreens manager Greg Hatt for their weekly donations!

Special thanks to the Linnemeyer, Lyons and Lee families, who helped to distribute the supplies to our clients during the first three weeks, and to volunteers Anna Besmann and Joyce Benninghouse for taking over during the last week.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Lee Stein

Everyone at the Pantry benefits from Lee's hard work as Volunteer Manager to keep us organized and ensure every spot is filled on Wednesday.

She was "volunteered" for the position when former manager Kate Roche announced she'd gotten a new job. "I told her that was unacceptable, she couldn't leave," Lee says. "She said she wanted me to replace her, and I said okay." Clearly she didn't know what she was getting into.

Lee was born in Old Greenwich, Conn., and grew up in Glen Ellyn. She attended the School of the Art Institute, where she got her BFA in photography in 1991. She also received her certification in massage at the Chicago School of Massage Therapy in 2000.

She first volunteered in October 2009, learning about the Pantry through the Irving Park Lutheran Church. "I was working for them part-time and I wanted to help the community in a more hands-on, tangible way so I could make more of a difference." She started as one of our first Web SNAP volunteers and also worked the closet.

"I love working with so many different people," she says. "There's a lot to organize, but working here helps me keep my perspective on life. Everyone is really dedicated, really committed to the mission. I've never seen anything like it. I feel like it's my second family here!"

## Keep Up to Date at Our Website

Check out our website for news of events and activities at [www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org](http://www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org). You also can 'Friend' us on Facebook to We had 1,526 visits in July! Thanks to Volunteer Manager Lee Stein for keeping it current!