

# BREADCRUMBS

February 2014

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

## Thank You to all for Holiday Help!

The Pantry's December 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday distribution provided the makings for a holiday meal to 1,244 of our neighbors in 376 households.

Thank you to everyone in the community who helped by donating money, food or toys and to all the volunteers who made the day a great success!



*Among those helping out at the Holiday distribution were Aldermen Deb Mel and John Arena and State Representative Jaime Andrade.*



*Barb Cohn (left) and Vicci Rodgers spear-headed the collection of toys for the Pantry's Toy Room.*

## Toy Drive Aids 246 Children

Thanks to contributions from local businesses and neighbors, 246 children between the ages of 0 and 12 received a toy, two stocking stuffers and mittens, scarves and caps at the Pantry's holiday program.

Even though the Pantry did not receive a donation from Toys for Tots as has often happened in the past, enough contributions from donors ensured there were enough toys for everyone. The groups included Irving Park Lutheran Church's MAP program, the Hispanic Ministry of the Irving Park United Methodist Church, and the City of Chicago's Women, Infants & Children program.

Thank you to Barb Cohn and Vicci Rodgers Keutzer for leading the drive and distribution. Thanks also to Jim Byrne, Nick Calderone, Rick Leidl, Pat Eisenhart, Leslie Washington, Craig O'Connor and many others for their help in collecting and distributing the groceries and toys.

We also want to thank the volunteers from the Community Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) in Evanston who obtained donations for our clients' pets and ensured that each pet received a special holiday toy and treat plus pet food and supplies.



*Volunteers set up the stations for the Pantry's annual Holiday distribution on December 18<sup>th</sup>.*



Office manager Sandra Schwarzbeck and Executive Director John Psiharis meet with Disney's 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade class to learn about their business efforts.

## Disney 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Donates \$1,000+

To help the students understand how businesses work, Disney II Elementary Magnet School, 2<sup>nd</sup>-grade teachers Katie Rollings and Katie Fielden worked with students to run a Crafts & Services Fair for two afternoons in December.

They researched product ideas and sold handmade crafts, including scarves and bracelets, and performed massages and other services. The two-day total donated to the Pantry (after deducting expenses) was \$1,014!

Thank you to the kids for voting for the Pantry to be the recipient of all their hard work and to everyone at Disney who participated and made such a great donation possible!

## Park View Students Volunteer

Thank you to Principal Mary Perillo and six students from Park View Lutheran School for braving the frigid temperatures to come work at the Pantry on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. They helped on the food line, with box disposal and with other activities all morning. We appreciate their volunteer spirit.



Principal Mary Perillo (at rear) led a group of six student volunteers from Park View Lutheran School.

## Volunteer Spotlight: Pam True

You'll often see Pam True running the closet station during distributions, but she's worked a number of jobs, including registration and all of the food lines. She also has helped with the Easter basket and Christmas toy distributions.



Pam works at a variety of stations at the Pantry, including helping with mailing and organizational projects in the office.

"I enjoy giving back to the community, and the volunteers are wonderful people to work with," she says. "And our clients really need the services we provide."

Pam grew up in Chicago and is a nurse practitioner, holding an M.S. degree in nursing. She has worked in a number of hospitals and clinics in the area and was a school nurse in the Chicago Public School system for 21 years.

She began working at the Pantry 4½ years ago, after reading about the Pantry in the Tribune. "I really enjoy getting to know the clients and helping them however I can."

## Be a Bunny for Pantry at Easter

The Pantry again will be distributing Easter bags to its clients for their children for four Wednesdays starting March 26<sup>th</sup> (Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup>).

We are collecting goodies (candy, snacks, small toys, etc.) for children in the age categories of under 2, 2 to 5, and 6 to 8 years old.

Donations can be brought to the Pantry at 3801 N. Keeler. Monetary donations are especially helpful. Questions can be directed to Vicci Rodgers at [viccirodgers@gmail.com](mailto:viccirodgers@gmail.com)