

BREADCRUMBS

October 2013

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

Help Make Holidays Brighter for Pantry Clients December 18th

The Pantry's annual Holiday Celebration will be held at our regular times on December 18th, when we provide our clients with the makings of a holiday dinner. We also allow clients to select a gift for each of their children. To provide these special holiday programs, we need help from our neighbors in the form of monetary, food and toy donations.

We are especially in need of juice, stuffing, cranberry sauce, canned yams and vegetables, instant potatoes, cake mixes, Jell-O and pumpkin-pie filling.

We typically give toys and gifts to our clients for about 400 children (ages infant to 12). For some, it will be the only gift they receive. Your donations ensure clients' children can talk about their special gift with their friends who receive so much more.



Volunteers prepare for last year's holiday distribution.

Unwrapped new toys and food donations can be brought to the Pantry at the Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler Ave.) from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday, Sunday morning, and other times the church is running programs. Donations can be left at the base of the stairs inside the Grace Street entrance. To check if the church is open for a donation, you can call 773/283-6262.

To volunteer, contact Vicci Rodgers at viccirodgers@gmail.com or 773-316-9754.



Disney II parents Mike Marton and Renee Linnemeyer organize the coat distribution at the Pantry.

Coat Drive Keeps Clients Warm

The Pantry's October coat distribution helped a large number of clients receive warm coats for the coming winter. A big swell of donations in the last week helped expand our inventory, allowing us to stay open one more week in November to give more clients a chance to receive a warm coat.

Special thanks to the parents and students at Disney II Elementary Magnet School for organizing a coat drive and then participating in the distribution. Thanks to Sarah Marton for creating the Disney program and to her, husband Mike and Renee Linnemeyer for helping clients find a coat.

Donate to a Pantry Food Drive

A number of food drives are being held on our behalf: Alderwoman Deb Mell (3649 N. Kedzie Ave.), Community Savings Bank (4801 W. Belmont Ave.), Kid Watch (3901 N. Ridgeway Ave.), Mount Olive Church (3850 N. Tripp Ave.) and Weight Watchers (4122 N. Milwaukee Ave.).

Thank you to everyone for supporting us by coordinating or contributing to these drives!

Wine-Tasting Benefit a Hit



Gloria Price, Julie Kult and Pam True organized the silent auction table during the wine-tasting benefit.

Thank you to everyone who supported our wine-tasting benefit on October 13th, either by attending, donating items or helping to organize it. It was a big success, with more money raised than last year.

Special thanks to those who supported the benefit through contributions of money or other help. These contributors include Mirabell Restaurant and Jeff Heil, Whole Foods Sauganash, Edible Arrangements Irving Park, Jewel Events, Fanny May chocolates, Sommers & Fahrenbach and Norwood Crossing for printing services and Kris Solum for graphics design.

Thanks also to those who contributed to the silent auction. Contributors included Brian Beaugureau, Benefit Cosmetics, Richard Bradley, Bruss Meats, Nora & Jim Byrne, Catch 35, City Smiles Dental/William Simon, DDS, Tom Conrad, Enzo Prosecco, Get a Grip Cycles, Fogo de Chao, Kohler Water Spa, LA Fitness-Six Corners, LaVilla restaurant, Peter Litton & Sharon Parke, Mionetto Imports, Anne Roberts Gardens, Vicki Ross, Lee Samsami Stein, Sandra Schwartzbeck, Sara Yoest/American Girl, Maggiano's Little Italy, Moet Hennessy USA, Target and Whole Foods.

Thanks also to our door-prize donors, The Alps Restaurant and Pancake House and Meatheads Burgers & Fries. Wine donors included Constellation Wines, Delicato Family Vineyards, Moet Hennessy USA, Pernod Ricard Wines, Terlato Wines Estates, Trincherro Family Estates and W.J. Deutch & Sons.

We also appreciate the efforts by the benefit co-chairs, Janet Middleton and Vicki Ross, as well as

the benefit committee: Patricia Bruss, Lorena De Avila, Gloria Price, John Psiharis, Kate Roche, Sandra Schwartzbeck, Craig Shutt and Lee Samsami Stein.

State Rep. Andrade Visits Pantry

Thank you to State Representative Jaime Andrade and his legislative aide, Shelby Bremer, who stopped by the Pantry in October to learn about our activities.



Rep. Andrade (center) and administrative assistant Shelby Bremer talked with Executive Director John Psiharis during his visit to the Pantry in October.

Disney II Second-Graders Learn About Pantry Programs in Class

Students in the two second-grade classes at the Disney II magnet school (3815 N. Kedvale Ave.) learned about the Food Pantry's programs that help our neighbors thanks to a talk given by our board member and volunteer Sandra Schwartzbeck.

The kids were learning about ways to help others, and teacher Catherine Rollings asked us to come explain our activities. The kids had lots of questions and really enjoyed the presentation by Sandra, who volunteers in the art department at the school, too.



Pantry volunteer and board member Sandra Schwartzbeck explains the Pantry's programs to second-graders at Disney II Elementary School.