

BREADCRUMBS

June 2014

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry
Celebrating Thirty Years of Service to the Community

Walk with the Pantry on June 21st!

Please plan to join us to walk with your neighbors on Saturday, June 21st, at the 29th Annual Hunger Walk sponsored by the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The 5-k (3.2-mile) Walk generates more of our annual operating funds than any other program. All money raised goes directly to our account with GCFD, which we use to buy food at about 8¢ cents per pound. That means your \$25 donation will provide about 300 pounds of food to our clients!

WANT TO WALK? Come to Soldier Field on Saturday, June 21st. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and the walk begins at 8:30. Join our team at www.chicagosfoodbank.org and do a search on the Hunger Walk page for "Irving." Each person who comes to the event and notes that they are with the Irving Park Food Pantry (Agency # A00113) will earn us \$12 from GCFD that goes directly into our food account.

DON'T WANT TO WALK? You don't have to! Everyone who shows up and fills out a registration form qualifies as part of our team and counts toward our participation. Kids count! Babies too!



Pantry volunteers walk in 2013's Hunger Walk.



Walkers prepare to step off at last year's Hunger Walk. Come walk with the Pantry!

WANT TO RAISE FUNDS? If you want to raise more funds from your friends, go to the Pantry Walk page and create a personal page to set a goal your friends can help meet.

ALL SET TO COME? To qualify for our team's count, you must register! You can do it online (at chicagosfoodbank.org/HWRRegister), fill out the downloadable form online or in our mailing, or pick up a form upon arrival.

JUST WANT TO DONATE? You can send the Pantry a check made out to the Irving Park Food Pantry and indicating it's for the Hunger Walk and Agency #A00113. You can donate online at our site (www.irvingparkfoodpantry.org) or at our Hunger Walk page. However you do it, we thank you for your support!

Pantry Celebrates on July 20th

The Pantry will hold an open house to celebrate its 30th anniversary (we opened in April 1984) on Sunday, July 20th at the Irving Park United Methodist Church at 3801 N. Keeler Ave..

The event will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and is open to the community. It will feature tours, refreshments and other fun stuff.

Pantry at GIPNA Farmers Markets

Please stop by to see us at the GIPNA Farmers Market on June 8 and 22! We will be at the Market all summer, with a booth where you can talk with volunteers, make a donation, learn about the June 21st Hunger Walk or buy an insulated grocery bag to support our programs.



Our booth at the GIPNA Farmers market will have insulated bags for sale to support the Pantry.

Thank You to St. Viator, Fossil

The restricted parking available in the area due to the construction work on Keeler has made it difficult for both volunteers and clients to get to the Pantry on Wednesday mornings.

We thank St. Viator for allowing our volunteers to use their parking lot for the duration. Their offer ensures our volunteers can make it to the Pantry on time and opens spots for our clients as they come and go on Wednesday mornings.



Thank you to the folks at Fossil who volunteered to work at the Pantry in April. They put together food bags, cut up boxes and helped out in other departments all day. This is the second year they've volunteered.



Joyce helped distribute Easter baskets to clients in March to help their children had a happy holiday.

Focus: Joyce Benninghouse

Joyce Benninghouse has worked all around the Pantry in the five years she has volunteered, helping on the food lines, doing check-ins and working in the kitchen. That variety has helped her with what she considers the best part of working at the Pantry: "I get to meet so many nice people."

Joyce was born in Chicago and worked as an executive assistant during her career. An article in the neighborhood newspaper made her aware of the Pantry and its work, so she came by to volunteer.

"I wanted to 'give back' to the city and the community where I've spent so many happy years," she explains. "The Pantry volunteers work so hard to meet so many of the clients' needs. It's very rewarding to be part of that experience."

Read Our Volunteer's Online Blog

One of our new volunteers, Rafal Galz, is writing about his experiences working at the Pantry at his website, www.savemaxdepot.com. You can read them by clicking on the Volunteering link at the bottom of the page under Philanthropy Involvement.

Pantry Served 1,547 in May

In May, the Pantry served 1,547 people in 572 households, including 33 new households with 63 people.

The Pet Food Corner also supplied pet food to 283 clients. Thank you for all of your help in continuing to be Neighbors Helping Neighbors!