

BREADCRUMBS

August 2014

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

Pantry Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Irving Park Food Pantry celebrated its 30th anniversary in July with an open house that gave community members a chance to see how the Pantry operates and meet some of its officers and volunteers.



The crowd at the Pantry's Open House enjoyed refreshments and looked at exhibits about the Pantry's history and operations



Volunteer Marcia Niazmand talks with visitors about the Pantry's Pet Food Corner program during the Pantry's open house.

Thank you to everyone who came to the Pantry to celebrate with us and to everyone who supports the Pantry throughout the year.

Your helps ensures that we meet our mission of being "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."



Pantry Board President Belma Torres kicks off the Open House by cutting the cake made by volunteer Sandra Schwarzbeck.

School Supplies Needed for Fall

The Pantry's program to provide school supplies to clients' children is underway. Our goal is to ensure all children have the opportunity to get the school year off to a strong start.

Our supplies run low by mid-month, so we are always in need of crayons (24 pack), markers, colored pencils, loose-leaf paper, spiral notebooks, pocket folders, glue sticks, scissors, rulers, erasers, #2 pencils and pens.

Please keep us in mind as you do your own shopping this year. Donations can be dropped off at the bottom of the steps inside the Grace Street door of the church any time during church operating hours or on Wednesday mornings.

Pantry History Article Available

A three-page overview of the Pantry's programs—including its history, services and other information—is available to anyone requesting it.

The article was prepared for the May issue of Inside Old Irving, the monthly magazine, which ceased publication in April. To receive an emailed copy of the article, contact info@irvingparkfoodpantry.org

Grant Funds Nutrition Class

Operation Rice Bowl, administered through the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, has renewed our \$1,500 grant, which will allow us to continue our Nutrition classes for clients using the foods they receive each month. The group held a site visit in May to see how the classes operate.

The latest series of classes were held in June and July, under the direction of instructor Alicia Theofanis from the University of Illinois Extension program. We thank volunteer Gloria Price for her work on this grant.



Alicia Theofanis prepares to teach a class for Pantry clients, creating nutritious dishes using the foods they receive each month.

Pantry at GIPNA Farmer's Market

Stop by the Pantry's booth at the GIPNA Farmers' Markets on August 10 and 24.

Volunteers will be staffing our booth to accept monetary donations, hand out information and sell insulated tote bags (for a \$10 donation). Please stop by to say hi when you visit the market.



Pantry Operations Manager Jim Byrne prepares to break down and distribute one of the weekly deliveries from GCFD's Food Rescue program.

GCFD Food Rescue Adds to Stocks

The Pantry continues to participate in the GCFD's Food Rescue program, in which the organization delivers last-minute perishable foods (frozen meat, produce, bakery items) early on Wednesday mornings.

Our volunteers immediately bring in the cartons of food, break them down and allocate them to our food lines for distribution. They have greatly added to our variety and help extend our funds to provide a wide range of food to our clients.

Homebound Delivery Aids Shut-Ins

The Pantry offers a homebound delivery service for clients unable to reach the Pantry on their own. Currently, 14 households received deliveries each month, owing to a lack of available trucks to reach more clients. We are looking to expand this service.

Thank you to Pat Eisenhart and Julie Kult for coordinating this service and to the volunteers who deliver the meals.

Pantry Served 1,427 in July

In July, the Pantry served 1,780 people in 642 households, including 60 new households with 181 people and 149 people in 53 households for our Tuesday night distribution. Our volunteers helped 9 households with 14 people apply for SNAP benefits, while our Pet Food Corner supplied 234 households with pet food

Thank you for all of your help in allowing us to continue to be Neighbors Helping Neighbors!