

BREADCRUMBS

July 2014

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

Pantry Open House July 20th

The Irving Park Community Food 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.

Please stop by and talk with some of the people who help out to ensure those in our community who need help get a boost.



Come by the Pantry on July 20th from 1 to 3 p.m and see how the Pantry and its volunteers helps our neighbors in need through a variety of services.

Thanks to Kate Roche for Service

We want to acknowledge contributions made by our former board president, Kate Roche, who has had to withdraw from our board of directors. Kate has worked with the Pantry for more than 10 years, as a volunteer, volunteer manager, board president and board member. She also has organized our wine-tasting benefits in past years. We appreciate all her efforts on our behalf and look forward to her continued support for our programs.



Help the Pantry Win Donation from Martin Nissan on Facebook

The Pantry has been nominated as a contestant in a donation competition sponsored by Martin Nissan in Skokie that can earn the Pantry a \$500 donation if enough of our supporters vote for us between July 16th and 31st.

Details are on the Martin Nissan Facebook page. Visitors can vote each day, and the nominated organization with the most votes wins the donation and promotion on the company's website for the next month.

Pantry Needs Pet Food, Toiletries

The Pantry is in need of pet food, especially cat food. We are one of very few food pantries in the city to offer pet food to our clients, through a partnership with the Community Animal Rescue Effort (CARE).

We work with a number of regular donators, but our supplies have dropped even as our list of clients wanting pet food grows. If you want to donate to the Pantry, please consider donating pet food, which we don't have access to through other sources.

We are always in need of toiletries (shampoos, soaps, razors, shaving cream, diapers, deodorants, feminine-hygiene products, toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste and toothbrushes). Travel-sized items are fine. We also need both men's and women's white crew socks.

Calderone, Schwarzbeck Honored

Congratulations to Gerry Calderone, who was named the 2014 Volunteer of the Year. Gerry began volunteering at the Pantry in 2009 and has worked a variety of jobs, including the non-perishables food station, leading a distribution line and walking in the Hunger Walk on our behalf. Her can-do attitude keeps things moving even when issues arise.



Gerry Calderone receives her award from Volunteer Manager Lee Stein and Executive Director John Psiharis.

Congratulations also go to volunteer Sandra Schwarzbeck, who was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all her hard work on our behalf. Sandra has volunteered at the Pantry since 2009 and works in the office, sending out correspondence, managing the office and performing whatever tasks are needed. She joined the board of directors in 2013. We are grateful for the work both she and Gerry do to help the Pantry run so smoothly.



Sandra Schwarzbeck was presented with her award by Executive Director John Psiharis and Volunteer Manager Lee Stein



Volunteers Anna Besmann and Joyce Benninghouse prepare to give out school supplies to clients in 2013.

School Supplies Needed for Fall

The Pantry is ramping up its program to provide school supplies to our clients' children in August to ensure they start the school year strong.

We are 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 at Farmer's Market in July

Stop by the Pantry's booth at the GIPNA Farmers' Markets on July 13 and 27. Volunteers will be staffing our booth to accept monetary donations, hand out information, invite you to our open house on July 20th, and sell insulated tote bags (for a \$10 donation). Please stop by and say hi when you visit the market.

Pantry Served 1,427 in June

In June, the Pantry served 1,427 people in 524 households, including 37 new households with 101 people and 135 people in 46 households on our Tuesday night distribution. Our volunteers helped nine households with 14 people apply for SNAP benefits. In June, 264 households received pet food through our Pet Food Corner

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