

BREADCRUMBS

August 2016

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

School Supplies Distribution Gets Underway for Client's Children

The Pantry has begun distributing school supplies to all clients with school-age children to get the new school year off to a good start.

We are especially in need of loose-leaf paper and pocket folders We also are distributing:

- * crayons (24 pack)
- * markers
- * colored pencils
- * spiral notebooks
- * glue sticks
- * scissors
- * rulers
- * erasers
- * #2 pencils
- * pens

Please keep us in mind as you shop this month. 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 (call 773/283-6262 to check) or on Wednesday mornings from 8:30 to noon or 6 to 8 p.m. on July 12th.



Erika Teijeiro-Ficht, Vanessa Velez and their many minions gave out school supplies to 52 children in the first week of the Pantry's distribution.



Joni McCarty (second from left), branch manager at the Lawrence and Western branch of MB Bank, and assistant manager Andrew Briel (second from right) present Finance Manager Lisa Albrecht and Executive Director John Psiharis with their donation.

MB Bank Makes Donation

The MB Bank Charitable Foundation made a donation of \$2,000 to the Pantry this month. The branch also will be providing a collection box in September for our winter coat drive taking place in October, so please drop off coats there if it's a convenient location.

The branch will be providing a group of volunteers to the Pantry to work various stations on September 14th. We thank them for all their help and volunteer efforts on our behalf!

Pantry Needs Toiletries

The Pantry is in need of toiletries, especially shampoo. We also are running low on deodorant, toothpaste and razors for both men and women. All toiletries are gratefully accepted!

The Pantry needs women's white crew socks, and we always need men's white crew socks, especially as the temperature turns cold. Winter is coming!

Pelican Aids Pantry

Thank you to the group from Praying Pelican Missions from Minnesota and their group coordinator, Andy Bost, who visited the Pantry recently and worked to maintain our herb garden, reload food stations and perform other work during our food distribution to clients.

You can learn more about the group at their website: www.prayingpelicanmissions.org.



Pantry Executive Director John Psiharis and Volunteer Jeri Winkels (on right), who oversees our herb garden.

Red Rover Grant Buys Pet Food

Thank you to the RedRover, which provided a \$2,000 grant to our Pet Food Corner to help buy food and supplies for our clients with pets. Thanks also go to volunteer Cathy Foster, who created our proposal for the grant.

The Pantry works with the Community Animal Rescue Effort (CARE) to operate the program, which aids about half of our clients. We are the only pantry in Chicago to supply our clients with pet food, and approximately half of them receive it.

Thanks also to the anonymous CARE donor who donates \$100 monthly for pet food. We also appreciate the huge donation of dog food from Blue Buffalo and Chicago Canine Rescue.



The Pet Food Corner received a \$2,000 grant from RedRover to purchase food and supplies.



Volunteers Craig O'Connor, Carol Schultz and Gina Hubberts are among the Pantry people who are staffing our booth at the GIPNA Farmers Market this summer.

Visit Pantry at Farmers Market

Stop by to see the Pantry at the GIPNA Farmers Markets on August 14th and 28th.

Volunteers from the Pantry will be on hand to answer questions, accept donations, and sell branded lunch bags and water bottles for a donation. You also can sign up to receive our Breadcrumbs newsletter, which you clearly already have done. Thank you!

Pantry Serves 1,241 in June

In June, the Pantry served 1,241 people in 446 households, including 50 people in 20 new households and 87 people in 31 households during our Tuesday evening distribution. The total compares to 1,290 people in 446 households that were served in 2015, indicating our numbers have remained consistent.

Our Pet Food Corner provided pet food to 179 households for dogs, cats, birds, hamsters and other small animals.

Unfortunately, the grant that the Greater Chicago Food Depository received from the Walmart Foundation that provided funding for food credits to us for SNAP application was not renewed. Alternate funding is being pursued, but we will continue to provide the service regardless.

Our Web SNAP outreach program assisted three households with three people to apply for SNAP benefits.

Thank you to everyone in the community who helps us with their time, money and support so can continue to be "Neighbors Helping Neighbors!"