

# BREADCRUMBS

December 2016

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Celebrating Thirty-Two Years of Service to the Community

## Be an Angel for the Pantry!

More than 300 children up to the age of 12 will receive gifts from the Pantry during its annual Holiday Program on December 21st. If you want to be an angel to one of these children, drop off a new, unwrapped gift at one of the locations listed below no later than December 14th.

We try to provide a book to each child, although supplies always run out well before demand. We also are collecting stocking stuffers for all ages.

New hats, gloves, scarves, and sock in all sizes are encouraged as well. The games table provides one game for each family (if we have enough). Financial donations are also appreciated and will be used to purchase items needed for Christmas.



*Pantry volunteers Craig O'Connor (center) and Jim Byrne make a toy pickup at Pert Cleaners for an earlier holiday program.*

If you want to help with the holiday distribution on Dec. 21st, please contact the pantry and leave a message for Sara Yoest (773/283-6296).

Donations can be dropped off at Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler Rd.), the Pantry's home base. They should be brought to the bins on the lower level inside the Grace Street entrance. To ensure the church is open, please call 773/ 773/283-6262 before you come.



*Drop-off locations for toys and books for the Pantry's Holiday program can be found throughout the area, including Starbucks.*

## Drop-off Locations for Pantry Gifts

Many businesses are providing drop-off points for toys, books, games and other gifts for the Pantry's Holiday program. Boxes can be found at:

- # St. John's Episcopal Church – 3857 N. Kostner
- # Irving Park Lutheran Church – 3938 W. Belle Plaine
- # Starbucks - 4365 W. Irving Park Road
- # Pert Cleaners - 4213 W. Irving Park Road
- # Josi's Frozen Yogurt - 4032 N. Milwaukee
- # Ward 45 Ald. Arena's office - 4754 N. Milwaukee
- # Old Irving Brewing Co. - 4419 W. Montrose
- # Potbelly -- 4185 W. Irving Park Road

## Shop with a (Amazon) Smile!



Please remember to use the Amazon Smile feature at

Amazon when you shop for the holidays at that site. If you use that bookmark (which doesn't change how you access the site) and designate the Pantry as the recipient, we will receive 0.5% of the price of all purchases made all year long. We do receive regular checks and it adds up!

## Special Holiday Meal Distributed to Pantry Clients on Dec. 21st

The Pantry will hold its annual holiday distribution for clients on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. At this event each year, we close the Pantry to our typical Wednesday operation and provide our qualified clients with the makings of a holiday dinner.

To fill these needs, we are especially in need of the key ingredients we include in the meal. These include:

- # stuffing
- # cranberry sauce
- # canned yams and vegetables
- # instant potatoes
- # cake mixes
- # Jell-O
- #canned pumpkin.

Monetary donations to help buy these items are especially appreciated, as we often can leverage our volume and sources to buy at greatly reduced prices.



*Volunteers prepare their station for the annual Holiday program at the Pantry in 2015.*

As with toy donations noted on the first page, food donations can be brought to the Pantry at the Irving Park United Methodist Church (3801 N. Keeler Ave.) during office hours (please call 773/283-6262 to check on times, as they vary).

Donations can be left at the base of the stairs inside the Grace Street entrance. They also can be brought to the church from 9 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays during Pantry operating hours.

In addition to these special items, we also are in need of dry goods, such as peanut butter, mac & cheese, whole-grain crackers, dried fruit and nuts, dry soup mixes and energy bars).

We also are always in need of men's and women's white crew socks, especially in the winter. We appreciate everything you do to help!



*Cathy Heaney and her daughter volunteered at the Pantry in November to sort the plethora of travel-size toiletries in recent weeks. They got everything sorted so all stuff is ready to go when it's needed!*

## Toiletries Stock Resupplied

Donations to the Pantry's toiletry supplies have continued to pour in following our plea for donations after the Pantry's stock was stolen during a break-in at its home.

We are now well stocked in most types, except shaving cream, razors and deodorant, which typically aren't donated as much. We are always grateful for more supplies, as they go quickly.

Travel-sized toiletries are appreciated, so if you stay overnight in a hotel or motel and don't need the toiletries, please save them to donate!

## Help Our Clients' Hungry Pets

We are the only food pantry in Chicago to give our clients pet food, but pet-food donations from our usual sources have dwindled recently. So we are always in need of pet food, especially cat food as well as litter and other supplies, toys, etc.

Thank you to the Community Animal Rescue Effort for their partnership in this program and to all the CARE volunteers who coordinate this valuable effort.



*Pet Corner volunteers give out pet food and toys to clients during the annual Holiday distribution.*