

# Alliance Community Pantry

215 E. Market St., Alliance, Ohio 44601

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*Working to end hunger  
in our community.*

Barb Armitage, Editor



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## VOLUNTEERS FIND ENJOYABLE TIMES AT THE PANTRY

As each year ends I stand in awe of the wonderful volunteers who keep the pantry running during the year. From pantry manager to truck drivers to screeners to personal shoppers to warehouse crew – hundreds of people are there day in and day out, bad weather and good, to assure that we have food on our shelves. Recently two of our Day Managers, Judi Brush and Jane Helwig retired and I asked them why they had chosen to volunteer in the first place and what they liked about it.

**Judi**, after talking about her other volunteer experiences, said she was introduced to the pantry by former managers Corliss and Ron Vuksta. After a special project she did with Jane Helwig, they ended up volunteering for a couple of Monday nights as co-managers, and it quickly turned into every Monday. “I love the people. . . . volunteers and clients . . . . and it was a Blessing. And, I made a lovely friend!” Judi said.

**Jane** initially volunteered for the “One Day Food Distributions” which were held in a vacant store on West State Street. As she explained, “Because I found this to be personally rewarding, I was eager to help each month when the Alliance Community Pantry moved into its own facility. Soon Judi Brush and I were serving as co-supervisors on Mondays. I’m glad to call her my friend.”

Jane continued, “I value that this organization is a community driven effort. I enjoy working alongside so many devoted volunteers, who, with compassion, share the pantry’s mission. Also, I marvel at the varied talents and gifts that the volunteers generously bring to this organization, whether their contributions are in the forefront or behind the scenes. The clients, many who could easily be our next-door neighbors, make me humbly appreciate all that I have. Their stories have had an impact on me. I look forward to continuing to serve as a volunteer at the pantry.”



Judi Brush, left, and Jane Helwig became close friends as they supervised Monday nights.

The new Monday night co-managers are Judy Douglas, left, and Jan Puterbaugh. They have both been volunteers on Monday night for some time but have stepped up to assume the roles of co-managers. Our volunteer pool is constantly changing as people’s lives change but fortunately for the pantry, new people are regularly joining the crew.

The volunteer stories are all different, but everyone enjoys spending time doing something so valuable. During the holidays we need volunteers more than ever as people travel and spend time with families. Please join all our volunteers in making Alliance a healthier, better place for all families.



Judy Douglas, left and Jan Puterbaugh, new Monday night supervisors.

**If you make your charitable contributions near the end of the year, please remember the Alliance Community Pantry. We work hard to maintain your trust and to be fiscally responsible as we work to eliminate hunger in our community.**



## Janet Kullman Designs New Alliance Community Pantry Logo

During the summer ACP Open House, community member Janet Kullman toured the pantry with Jody Koenigseker, Board member, and mentioned that she wanted to volunteer, but her working schedule prevented it. When Jody asked what she did, she responded that she was a graphic designer and owned her company. Jody suggested that there are many ways people volunteer and suggested that she design a logo for us. Janet presented several designs to the Board this fall, and the Board selected the one above. With the final choice, Jody eloquently said "Tadaaaa." We now have a great new logo you'll be seeing.

Our Board is a hands on, working Board who are always looking for ways to bring in all types of volunteers. Fortunately, our community responds with volunteers of every skill imaginable. Even a listing of the many volunteer groups is daunting, but we are blessed with a single-focused, mission and many people want to help us meet it.

### TRICK OR TREATING FOR ALLIANCE COMMUNITY PANTRY

University of Mount Union students spent Halloween evening collecting more than 2,500 pounds of food for the Alliance Community Pantry. Each year since we opened, students at Mount have held a Halloween food drive

Members of Alpha Phi Omega, the Black Student Union, Delta Sigma Tau sorority, Gamma Beta Phi honor society, Kappa Phi women's Christian organization, Sophomore Service Honorary and the swim team along with other students collected food on various routes around town. Students had delivered postcards about the event to their routes last week informing residents of the upcoming collection.

Delta Sigma Tau sorority collected over 600 pounds of food, the highest amount collected by any team. The overall total for the 2013 Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods was over 2,500 pounds. Pantry volunteers Mike Patterson and Vicky Dugan dedicated their night to be at the pantry as students returned with canned goods.



Currently sponsored by the Regula Center for Public Service and Civic Engagement at Mount Union, Trick-or-Treat is one of Mount Union's top service projects hosted annually as over 50 volunteers participate. Abby Hoffman is Director of the Regula Center and oversees the project.

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