

Alliance Community Pantry

215 E. Market St., Alliance, Ohio 44601

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Barb Armitage, Editor

A LOOK AT FREQUENCY - How Often Do They Visit?

When the policies were developed for opening the pantry, some of our biggest concerns were “how much food should we distribute and how often could clients come?” Much research and many visits to other pantries helped developed our policies, but of course we were uncertain.

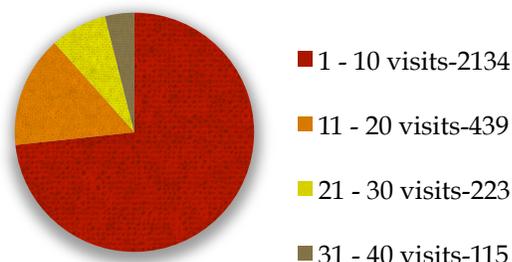
There have been many surprises - the numbers of wonderful volunteers who have stepped up to work each week, the pounds of food donated by groups who have conducted food drives on our behalf, and the fact that we purchased almost ½ million pounds of food to distribute last year, but one of the biggest surprises centers around client frequency.

Research into food pantries and their policies assured us that “people would come only when they needed food, not as often as they were eligible.” But we couldn’t help but wonder, “If someone could get food which would free up money for other needs, wouldn’t they come as often as possible?” **During our first 20 months, 2911 clients visited the pantry at least once.** The pie chart on the right shows how many visits were made by the people in our database. Although only those who came initially could have come all 40 times, the frequency of visits certainly illustrates that people who typically visit the pantry when they need it most aren’t coming every time they are eligible.

Only 115 visited more than 30 times - **This is less than 5% of our total database. We are seeing over 100 clients each week and most aren’t new.**

Most of our clients came 10 times or less - This once again validates that **they visit the pantry when they need it.**

FREQUENCY OF VISITS



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS - Thursday's Warehouse Crew



Warehouse workers:

Ron Moore, Betty Andrisani, Terra Faulker, Roy Holmes, Chuck Fotheringham, and Fred Faulkner

While screeners and shoppers are the face of our pantry to clients, there are many “behind the scenes” volunteers who are equally important. One such crew consists of warehouse workers. These people help unload the truck, operate the forklift, move cases from pallets to warehouse and then stock shelves. Their work is critical to a smooth operation as we receive between 5,000 and 20,000 pounds of food every week, and by the end of the month they could have unloaded over 80,000 pounds of food. Two trucks per week mean this crew is busy.

HOBY STUDENTS CLEAN PANTRY

When 400 people a week travel through any location, it gets dirty. Weather, litter, and just life, create dirt. After a winter of mud, blowing leaves, and muck, the pantry needed a thorough cleaning.

High School sophomores at the

Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership workshop at Mount Union during the first week-end in June spent part of Saturday at various non-profits in Alliance learning first-hand about service.

A group of 28 students from all over northern Ohio worked for 2 hours giving the pantry a thorough cleaning. They emptied and washed all the shelves and then restocked them, washed windows, sorted and shelved over 400 pounds of food they had brought to donate and learned about the pantry from Board members Dave Puterbaugh



Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Barb Armitage
- Betsy Cornell
- Richard Duro, Emeritus
- Elayne Dunlap
- Lisa Garren
- Peggy Hawkins
- Corrine Hirvela
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- Mike Patterson, Vice Pres.
- Dave Puterbaugh, Pres.
- Betty Rush
- Sue Ryan, Secretary
- Bob Shaffer, Treasurer
- Matt Stinson
- Gary Wagner
- Gloria Whiteley-Magrath,
- Renee Young

and Mike Patterson. John Armitage, HOBY Northeastern Ohio HOBY Board member, facilitated the service projects. We salute their efforts.

BEHIND THE SCENES WORKERS

In addition to the many volunteer workers who are visible at the pantry, there are other crews who work behind the scenes doing various jobs week after week. Let's meet the bread delivery crews.

The pantry prides itself on having a large selection of breads and pastries available to our clients. We are able to do this because area businesses give us their breads if we pick them up. We are lucky that volunteers have stepped up to do this each week.

Jerry Csaki's family picks up breads from Giant Eagle every Saturday, Matt Stinson's family picks up on Sunday, and The Kadlecek family (seen in photo) picks up gluten free baked items from Kathy's creations. Panera donates breads three days. Armitages pick up breads on Monday, Pattersons on Tuesdays, and Puterbaughs pick up on Wednesday nights. This enables us to offer an array of breads, cakes, pastries, and bagels.



Volunteer Picnic Planned for
August 25, 2012 12:00-3:00

Butler Rodman Park

If you know how to operate a fork lift or drive truck and would enjoy some great camaraderie, give us a call. We welcome new volunteers.