

# Alliance Community Pantry

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Pat Gates and Barb Armitage, Editors

## PANTRY BIDS A FOND FAREWELL TO RON AND CORLISS

After a year as the Managers of the ACP, Ron and Corliss Vuksta are leaving the pantry for retirement and an opportunity to do other things on their "bucket lists". They were the first pantry managers and worked through the myriad of details and procedures as the pantry opened its doors.

As they look back, they talk fondly of the first months, and their involvement in decisions about the location, truck, warehouse and procedures for the new pantry. "We felt like pioneers –working out the details – this was our mission and it has been wonderful," Corliss said.

Ron added that "being part of all the early decisions about the building, truck and layout were gratifying." They are deservedly proud of their part in serving those who need food in our community. We will miss them. Watch next month for an introduction of the new pantry manager.



**Ron and Corliss Vuksta**

## Annual Meeting Statistics

Part of the annual meeting is examining statistics from the year's operations. We thought you would be interested to know some of these key numbers from the first year of the pantry operation.

### Clients served – through Dec 31, 2011

- Clients (households) served – 2552 (14,535 visits)
- Unduplicated people served – 7007  
33.3% – children; 10.2% seniors
- We average 1300 visits per month by 900 households  
(The last full week in January, over 400 clients visited.)
- Days open in 2011- 195

### Food

- 433,505 pounds of food from ACR Food Bank
- Total cost \$49,136 (Food costs us 11¢ per pound)
- This figure does **not** include food drives

### Frequency

- 75% of our clients have come 8 times or less - probably close to once a month
- Only 10% of our clients have used the pantry over 15 times - thus further supporting that people come "when they need food" and not as often as they can
- Around 50% of our clients have come 3 times or fewer.

**New Warehouse Coordinator Terra Faulkner (on the left) with warehouse volunteers Al Retone and Betty Andrisani**



**ACP BOARD MEMBERS**

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

Terra Faulkner is our newest Warehouse Coordinator. She has worked in the warehouse since the pantry opened and now handles overall warehouse operations. Terra is married to husband Fred, and has 4 children, yet still manages to volunteer 4+ days each week. She keeps the warehouse organized, food drive donations sorted and shelved, and the pantry shelves stocked. Terra does a super job keeping our warehouse neat, organized and clean, while getting thousands of pounds of food onto our shelves.

**Refrigeration Items - When Available, They're Great!**

If you visit the pantry more than once, you'll undoubtedly be surprised at what is (and sometimes is not) available in our refrigerators. One day, for example, clients can choose from butter, cottage cheese, chip dip, sour cream, raspberry lemonade and American cheese. Sometimes there are multiple refrigerated items and yet sometimes the refrigerators are empty. Why?

Many refrigerated items are free because they are nearing their expiration date (labeled "grant" on the pantry invoice). When the pantry truck goes to the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank for a pick-up, they never know what "free" items will be available. Breads, produce and dairy are among the most common free items. When items are available the driver calls the pantry to check on space, and if space is available, items are picked up. Sometimes nothing is available and the refrigerators are empty.

The same analogy falls true for produce. It's usually free but not always available. On the day I wrote this, we have cabbage, carrots, potatoes, and apples. It's always an adventure to drive the truck and check out the available "free" items and then to match available shelf space with what will fit in the truck. Great job, drivers, in selecting good items for our pantry.

**COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT REVIEW**

Community Block Development Grant site evaluation members Barb Sferra from Community Development office and Kevin Knowles, City Auditor, spent 2 hours reviewing ACP paperwork, filing and data, one Friday in January. They met with ACP Board President Dave Puterbaugh, Treasurer, Bob Shaffer and Board Member Barb Armitage.

There were no findings. Everything was in order. We salute the many data entry people who work diligently to assure our records are current and correct.



Dave Puterbaugh and Bob Shaffer of the Pantry with Barb Sferra and Kevin Knowles from the city during our CBDG review.