



Leigh celebrates getting
40 boxes of meat.

ORDERING FOOD ALWAYS A CHALLENGE

One of the unseen heroes at the pantry is Leigh Mainwaring who is responsible for ordering the food we purchase from the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. Leigh has been doing the job for 9 months now, and she gave us some insight into the job.

The pantry has around 900 clients each month, with many visiting twice so we need tons of food to keep our shelves full – 40,000-50,000 pounds every month. We usually schedule one or two trucks per week for the trip to Akron. Our food budget is \$6000 per month and we stretch it as much as possible so we get the most food for our dollars. By shopping at the Foodbank we get our food for 10¢-12¢ per pound.

Available Foodbank items are listed online 24/7 and the list is constantly changing. Leigh checks in several times a day to add and/or change items. Some ordering can be done online and some must be done by phone.

Leigh says purchasing is sort of like a puzzle whose object is to maximize our order considering what space we have available in the refrigerators, freezers and warehouse, while keeping costs

in mind and remembering what items people want most. We never know what will be available, how much it will cost, and how many people will travel through the pantry each week.

I asked Leigh what were the most important items to look for as she ordered. She responded---

- **Meat** We buy meat when it is available, but sometimes it isn't offered, leaving us with empty freezers.
- **Produce** We want to provide fresh, healthy food and produce is free, so we look for produce.
- **Food Repacks** These cases contain items that have been donated to food drives in the 8 county Foodbank area, and cases include miscellaneous food items like canned goods and dry foods, thus giving our pantry a wider variety of choices.
- **FREE Items** Sometimes a terrific item will be free – cereal, milk, canned peaches, spaghetti sauce, etc. When this happens, it is on the food choice list for a very short time and Leigh buys as much as the warehouse can hold. We've been lucky in this area as she checks constantly searching for the best selections.



It is key to remember is that we are a "choice" pantry, not a grocery. We can only offer what is available to us. Sometimes clients find a wonderful array of choices and other times, we offer emergency sustenance to help clients get by. But, we **always** have food choices for our clients.



CLEANING HELP IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED!



Students from University of Mount Union cleaned on United Way's Day of Service

You may have noticed that we frequently have volunteer groups come to the pantry and clean, and you may have wondered why it needs to be cleaned so often. (3 groups have cleaned in 4 months) With over 6,000 food items and over 400 people moving in and out of the pantry each week, it just gets dirty.

Volunteers wash down shelves and walls; they dust tables, chairs and fans; they wash windows; they scrub bins, and they vacuum and vacuum. While Day Coordinators, Manager Vicky and Warehouse chief Terra clean daily, these thorough cleanings help keep the pantry sparkling.



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THANK YOU PICNIC FOR VOLUNTEERS



Above : volunteers share a picnic lunch at the park.

Right: an array of dishes awaits those preparing to eat.

Prize Winners from the picnic include:

Watermelon Weight ----	Samantha James
Number of Candy -----	Jean Wood
Attendance Drawing -----	Roy Holmes \$25.00

On August 25, a picnic to thank the many volunteers who work at the pantry, was held at Butler Rodman Park. Approximately 100 volunteers attended. Vicky Dugan, Pantry manager, organized the picnic and board members cooked the hamburgers and hot dogs. Pot-luck was the order of the day and the Board provided meat, table services and watermelons.

