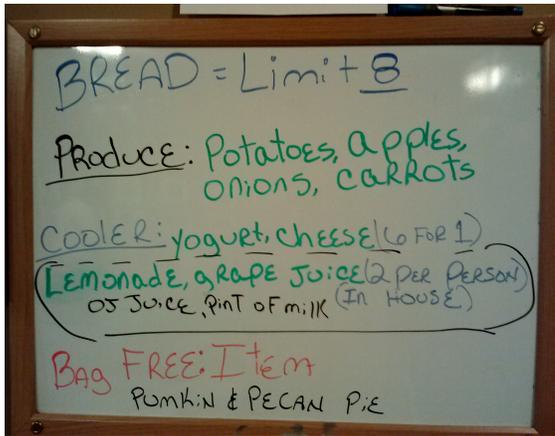


Screening Room Bulletin Board Lets Clients Know Early What to Expect

Next to the entry to the grocery area is a wooden bulletin board that changes daily. First timers might need an explanation to understand what it means, but regular patrons of the pantry understand that it lets them know what to expect once in the grocery area. During a day in January, I snapped the picture below.



As you can see, bread was plentiful that day and every client could take up to 8 loaves. In the produce department clients could have one **each** of potatoes, apples, onion, and carrots. In the coolers, yogurt, cheese, lemonade, grape juice, orange juice and pints of milk were offered. When we get small containers of juice and milk, amounts are usually determined by the number of people in a household (2 per person in house or 1 per person).

Finally, as a reward to those who return with their canvas bags, thus saving plastic, waste and mess, there is always a special surprise – that day it was pumpkin and pecan pie. What a motivation for bringing that bag back.

Ninety-four In-Kind Donations Mark Christmas Season

November and December are traditionally special months in the pantry for donations. It is a time when office parties, holiday get-togethers, and just about every social gathering does something to remember people who struggle.

The pantry received “in kind” donations from 94 different sources during those two months. They ranged from paper towels and toilet paper to all kinds of food. Donors were churches, clubs, businesses and friends. We appreciate all of them.



John Armitage drove the pantry truck to pick up donations from Costal Pet Employees.

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Pantry Manager Vicky Dugan, aided by Board member Jody Koenigseker hosted a Christmas party for volunteers from the pantry. It was held at First Christian Church and was attended by over 50 volunteers.



Pantry Volunteers enjoy party fare.



Manager Vicky Dugan and Warehouse Coordinator Terra Faulkner

One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure – Revisited

In the same vein as last month's article on the unique connections that resulted in our new walk-in freezer unit, we've added an additional glass 2-door refrigeration unit to our pantry. One of our volunteers, Pat Gates, learned that the Sebring VFW was trying to sell a glass refrigeration unit. She contacted an ACP Board member who made the connections and we now have added refrigeration space. (The cost was \$100.)

Also during December, the Giant Eagle in Louisville was getting a new walk-in refrigeration storage unit and they were inadvertently sent the wrong one. The company told them to "junk it" because it was just the walls, floor and roof, and the compression unit wasn't included. The cost of shipping was prohibitive. Mike Patterson's son-in-law works at Giant Eagle and made the connection to Mike. We sent a crew, and a truck and, while we're not ready to purchase a compressor and make the necessary installation preparation yet, the walls and parts are securely tarped and waiting for the time when we can afford to add walk-in refrigeration space.

One more example - A pantry driver, Glenn Rupp, was visiting his daughter in Virginia, when she mentioned that her family was getting rid of a freezer. He volunteered to bring it home to Alliance and added it to our backroom freezer space, thus, once again increasing our ability to purchase additional quantities of meat when it is available.

These serendipitous improvements at the pantry aren't magic, but they are the result of hundreds of people who are focused on getting food to people who need it.

Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Barb Armitage, Pres. Elect
- Betsy Cornell
- Richard Duro, Emeritus
- Elayne Dunlap
- Lisa Garren
- Peggy Hawkins
- Corrine Hirvela
- Carol Henry
- Jody Koenigseker
- Mike Patterson, Vice Pres.
- Dave Puterbaugh, Pres.
- Glenn Rupp
- Betty Rush
- Sue Ryan, Secretary
- Bob Shaffer, Treasurer
- Matt Stinson
- Gary Wagner, Secretary
- John Whitehair

Impact of Memorial Donations

When we originally planned our budget and pictured donors, we didn't consider "memorial donations" and yet, we have been blessed by donors who are honoring a friend or family member who has passed away. Many of these donations come from out of state and some have amounted to hundreds of dollars. Sometimes these are volunteers or people affiliated with the pantry, but most often, they are just people who are honoring and remembering someone who cared about Alliance.

Recently local citizen Clyde Combs passed and memorial contributions from his family and friends totaled over \$1000. This was obviously a man who was committed and involved in Alliance and his friends honored him with their contributions.

When a memorial gift is given, the thank-you committee thanks both the donor and the family of the deceased so that they know who made the donation. What a wonderful tribute to someone who obviously understood the need in our local community.

Annual Meeting Held on January 14, 2013

As our by-laws dictate, the Alliance Community Pantry held its annual meeting on January 14th. At this meeting President Dave Puterbaugh reviewed the second year of operations, and new officers and board members began their terms. Some of Dave's annual report will be featured next month. The Executive Committee for 2013 is pictured below.



From Left: President Elect-Barb Armitage, President-Dave Puterbaugh, Secretary-Gary Wagner, Vice President-Mike Patterson, and Treasure-Bob Shaffer.