

New Freezer Unit Adds “Cool Space” To Pantry Storage by Dave Puterbaugh

There are two types of situations that we’ve experienced at the pantry over our history that repeated themselves over the last few weeks and resulted in an outdoor freezer unit for the pantry.

The first of these occurs when “one person’s not needed items are a treasure for someone else!” The trick is finding the match between these two. We’ve worked hard to network so we become aware of these opportunities. We utilize this principle in many of the food items we get from the Food Bank and local food retailers. Food that they can’t use anymore finds its way to hungry people through our Pantry. In the case of the freezer, Bob Shaffer, our Treasurer, was the match-maker. He discovered that a church in Canton had an outdoor freezer unit that they didn’t want, and knew that we had been looking at providing the pantry with additional freezer space. And it was free!

Our second observation is the recognition of the willingness of so many people with diverse interests and skills who are willing to help on projects, sometimes at no charge to the pantry. The special challenge in the case of the freezer was



Facilities committee members Neal Sangree & Glenn Rupp with Terra Faulkner, warehouse coordinator.

that it needed moved within 2 weeks! The question was “How do we get it moved and installed at our pantry?” Our outstanding facility committee consisting of Gary Wagner, Neal Sangree, and Glenn Rupp enthusiastically accepted the challenge and made the plans, and then looked for people with special skills and equipment to help. Roger Rhome, of K&D Trucking, volunteered to drive his truck to Canton and drag the freezer onto the bed for placement on the wood pad that was prepared for it by the facilities committee adjacent to the pantry. Another community volunteer, did the wiring.

So, in less than three weeks, a freezer needing a home found one; key volunteers were recruited to make it happen, and all at a cost of less than \$100! How’s that for a win-win?

Roger Rhome has provided valuable advice and assistance to the pantry, especially with our truck.



Time Warner Cable Shows Community Support

Time Warner Cable employees spent a morning at the pantry recently where they volunteered in support of the community. Michael Rudolph, Dan Barker, Erin Wirtz, Christopher Burr, Gloria Massey and Vicky Dugan, pantry manager.



Another “Behind the Scenes” Donor Learns of Impact

Sometimes people donate to the pantry, either money or “stuff” for months or even years without realizing the impact of their contributions. This week, Greg Nutial, below on the left, learned how the pantry uses the thousands of plastic bags his company, The William Allen Co. of North Canton, has donated.

The pantry gets bread and baked goods 4 days each week from Panera, but it arrives in giant boxes or bags and must be repackaged for households. Greg, and his son Andrew, are working with Judi Brush, Monday night manager and Terra, warehouse coordinator, to repack bread in usable packs.

Probably the largest impact is in the area of produce which arrives in huge boxes or gaylords and must be repacked. During the summer, volunteers rebagged peppers, corn on the cob, carrots, and many other produce items. Hats off to Greg for his willingness to support the Alliance Community Pantry.



Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

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Brownie Troop 1061 Visits the Pantry

The girls from Brownie Troop 1061 of Washington Elementary School collected 28 pounds of canned food, got a tour of the pantry and, with Terra's help, stacked the food they brought on the shelves. These girls are learning about community service at a young age. The Brownie leaders were Leslie and Britney Kurtz.

First row, left to right -- Peyton Battershell, Isabelle Battershell, Abby Betz, Melanie Hackney and Lydia Beltz.



In back, left to right -- Skyler Mayhorn, Claire Gerber, Brianna Kurtz and Jane Miller.



Brownies from Troop 1061 stack cans to be weighed under the direction of warehouse coordinator Terra Faulkner.

The annual meeting of the Alliance Community Pantry will be held January 14th, 2013 in the meeting room at the Alliance Chamber of Commerce. New officers and Board members will begin terms as of that date.