

Bread, the Staff of Life



A quick bagel for breakfast, a sandwich at lunch, maybe a hamburger for dinner – all regular, routine practices for many of us. And yet for a family living with “hunger insecurity,” bread is a staple that can frequently be a cause for anxiety. Families eat lots of it and it can be expensive. Bread provides a base for many meals, and yet, without it, what can one use for a substitute?

The pantry is blessed to have bread and pastry donations from many sources and due to these, clients are able to get breads almost every day. Four nights each week, a pantry volunteer visits Panera and picks up the left-over breads from that day. These include artisan breads, breakfast bagels and pastries, and yummy desserts. These are individually bagged at the pantry for distribution.

On weekends different volunteers pick up 3-4 grocery carts of breads and baked goods from Thorne’s IGA and Buckeye Giant Eagle. Again, these are sorted and organized each day at the pantry. Also each weekend gluten-free breads and pastries are delivered from Kathy’s Creations.

Then occasionally a bread truck driven by Stanley Schloneger of Louisville, will arrive full of white, sliced bread. Hundreds of loaves of sandwich bread are unloaded and distributed during that week. Mr. Schloneger owns a Hartville bakery.

Finally, when our truck drivers arrive at the Akron Canton Regional Food Bank, one of them attends to helping Foodbank workers load our order while the other visits the “free section” at the Foodbank, an area devoted to excess, which must be moved quickly. This area almost always contains breads. If the other bread donations are not sufficient for the week, the drivers select additional breads and add them to the truck.

While we pay nothing for any of the breads that are distributed each day at the pantry, their importance cannot be stressed enough. Every client takes at least one loaf of bread and many need several. Our bread delivery volunteers provide this service every week. Like our manager, warehouse workers, screeners, shoppers, and truck drivers, these weekly volunteers who provide bread pick up and delivery are another key to our success.



“BEST” Student Develops Possible Volunteer Software

Pantry board members worked with Mount Union student Sarah Woody as part of the BEST program, a marketing class project where students work to assist non-profits with innovative, mission-consistent, strategic solutions to problems in the non-profit. Sarah demonstrated free software called volunteerspot during class. This software program enables a volunteer coordinator to establish volunteer schedules, post needs and job descriptions, and offers an opportunity to fill needed volunteer jobs. It was another great collaboration with Mount Union.

Alpha Chi Omega Sorority Volunteers at Pantry where,
 “Many Hands Made Light Work”



About once each month, we schedule a “cleaning crew” to visit the pantry for a complete “everything off the shelves, floor scrubbing, window washing, dust-bunny vacuuming, bathroom sparkling” cleaning. With tons of produce, over 400 clients visiting, and over 6,000 items leaving shelves each week, it simply gets dirty, and we are forever grateful for the hard work of our volunteers.

Alliance Community Pantry
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Pantry 365 Members Thanked at Donor Reception



President Dave Puterbaugh thanked Pantry 365 Members for their continuing support at a reception held at the pantry in February. President-Elect Barb Armitage shared statistics and a short Powerpoint, highlighting changes at the pantry made in 2012.



Invited guests were Pantry 365 members, including individuals, churches and businesses who donated over \$1,000 last year. The reception was hosted by the ACP Board of Directors who also attended.

Top: guests mingle, and share snacks.



Above: Funding Committee holds 2012 Pantry 365 Plaque. Left to right: Barb Armitage, Matt Stinson, Leigh Mainwaring.

Left: President Dave Puterbaugh thanks the donors.