



# Alliance Community Pantry

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Barb Armitage, Editor

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## ANNUAL REPORT

This newsletter will contain key pieces of the 2014 Annual Report for the Alliance Community Pantry given by 2014 President Barb Armitage. The Annual Meeting was held on January 12, at 4:30 at the Chamber of Commerce office. Officers for the coming year are: President, Matt Stinson; Vice President, Mike Patterson; Secretary, Gary Wagner; and Treasure, Bob Shaffer. New Board members are Neal Mann and Jeff Talbert.

### President's Message – Barb Armitage



The Alliance Community Pantry opened its doors on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010, and has been opened four full years, four days each week. In addition to simply providing food, a primary objective was that all people in our town would be aware of a food source that was consistent – it could be counted on to be there for them, week after week, month after month, year after year. It would be open on a regular basis for our clients. We can say that we have achieved this goal. Alliance citizens left the pantry with food over 18,000 times in 2014. Over 2,600 individuals visited the pantry for food at least once last year. These individuals represent 9,100 people in our community. The word is out. After four years, people know who we are and that **we will be there for them when they need us**. They depend on us when, for whatever reason, they need food.

The success of the ACP has always resulted from the people who believe in the mission. From the Board to our Pantry Management Team to the 150+ volunteers who work each week to the donors who provide finances to the local groups who sponsor food drives -- the pantry “works” for Alliance because of these people and their commitment to the mission of *working to end hunger in Alliance*. Gratitude to them and a desire to continue to troubleshoot any problems, fix any issues, and continue to meet the needs of our community-- these are our commitments as we enter 2015.

### KEY STATISTICS – A MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD!

A million pounds of food!! In 2014, the Alliance Community Pantry distributed a million pounds of food. We purchased 949,620 pounds of food from the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. We received more than 30,475 pound of food donated in various food drives by local groups and businesses. We receive approximately 150-200 pounds of breads and pastries each week from Panera, Giant Eagle, Stone Pizza, Stanley Schloneger, and Kathy's Creations. A million pounds!

And the total cost of this food? We spent \$71,470.97. Our average cost of each pound of food purchased at the Foodbank was 7¢. Due to excellent warehouse management and careful food ordering, we have leveraged our donors' funds to get the most value for our clients. Having both the large freezer and walk-in refrigeration unit enables us to have more fresh produce and meat so we're offering our clients more options, a healthier selection, and better choices.

As we expected, our numbers have stabilized, and as we compare the number of visits, new clients, households, and people impacted, we are very close in numbers to 2013. Interestingly, for our \$71,470, we purchased 55,000 more pounds of food.

Key Statistics	Visits	New Clients	Households	People Served
2013	18,193	840	2,625	9,086
2014	18,100	715	2,665	9,123

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

- The ACP hosted its first *Chamber after Hours*.
- The ACP received grants from United Way, Alliance (CDBG), and UMU (Pay it Forward).
- New wheeled shelving units were added.
- Wendy Prince (Alliance Review) developed a new newsletter header.
- Hours were changed during 2014 so that currently the pantry is open two mornings and two evenings each week to accommodate the working poor.
- Past President Dave Puterbaugh was recognized by the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank with the “Network Leadership Award”.
- In July the pantry adopted PantryTrak, a paperless TEFAP screening under the guidance of Carol Henry, Data Coordinator.
- Over \$1,100 was received in “hard to get” foodstuffs from Fisher Foods via the Stark County Hunger Taskforce.
- The ACP was nominated by United Way as a *Community Partner*.
- A team of 12 ACP volunteers worked at the ACRFoodbank as part of a national project to eradicate hunger called *Operation Orange*.
- The pantry participated in United Way’s Day of Caring and University of Mount Union’s Martin Luther King Day of Service.
- The ACP continues to operate based on a totally volunteer business model, using over 150 community volunteers, and regularly using: students from Alliance High School, the University of Mount Union (Regula Center, classes, sororities, sports teams), Buckeye Girls State, Ulster Teens, Boy and Girl Scouts, and local churches, businesses and organizations.
- President Barb spoke about the pantry to eight groups during the year, updating them about the pantry events, statistics, and needs. (Both funding chair Matt Stinson, and Past President Dave Puterbaugh also made presentations to groups.)
- The Board continues to maintain our truck, fork-lift and building. This year this included: coating the roof, replacing the battery for the fork-lift, and repairing the truck.

## Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Barb Armitage, P. Pres.
- Richard Duro, Emeritus
- Elayne Dunlap
- Peggy Hawkins
- Carol Henry
- Corrine Hirvela
- Abby Honaker
- Jody Koenigseker
- Neal Mann
- Mike Patterson, VP
- Glenn Rupp
- Betty Rush
- Sue Ryan
- Bob Shaffer, Treasurer
- Matt Stinson, President
- Jeffrey Talbert
- Gary Wagner, Secretary
- John Whitehair
- Renee Young



### PUTERBAUGH AND CORNELL LEAVING ACP BOARD

As we end 2014, two board members who were part of the founding team are leaving the board, and we pause to salute them. Dave Puterbaugh, locally known as the Father of the ACP, was the key person instrumental in getting the idea of a community pantry off the ground. We’ve noted Dave’s many accomplishments and recognitions here over the four years the pantry has been open. Dave will leave the board but certainly not the pantry as he will be involved in several pantry projects.

Another key person who has been involved since the pantry’s inception is Betsy Cornell. Betsy has had an important “behind the scenes” role at the pantry. Betsy is the Food Supervisor for Alliance City Schools, and Betsy’s perspective was sought when Kiwanis began researching One-Day Food Distributions prior to the formation of the pantry. She readily joined the hunger task force and has been a vital part ever since. Betsy brought knowledge and insight based on years of working with Alliance City Schools, the Free and Reduced lunch program, and food. She’s worked with the pantry food committee on ordering, provided valuable information for grant writing, and helped make sure the pantry was meeting compliance laws regarding storage and handling of food. Her quiet demeanor and ready smile will be missed at board meetings and on our many projects. Thanks to both of our retiring original board members.

