

Alliance Community Pantry

215 E. Market St., PO Box 2581, Alliance, OH 44601

330 680-8130 • www.alliancecommunitypantry.org



Working to end hunger in our community.

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Barb Armitage, Editor

FREQUENCY OF CLIENT VISITS

One of the questions our volunteers always get refers to people taking advantage of the pantry. “How do you know people aren’t coming just because they can get food to pad their food budget?” Interestingly this was also a discussion when we opened, but the research we did in preparation stated that people wouldn’t abuse a pantry; rather they’d just come when they need it. Since this continues to be a question, I decided to examine 2015 client data. In 2015 clients could have come to the pantry at least 26 times, twice each month. Let’s look at the data collected from our client intake.

There were 16,890 pantry visits in 2015, from 2455 clients. **Of the 2,455 clients who visited the pantry, 1,847 or 75% of the clients came 10 times or less.** And 1,372 of those came 5 times or fewer. Over 75% of our clients didn’t even come once a month. For these clients we are the “safety net” we hope to be for those living near the edge of poverty. We are there for them when a high winter heating bill or a sick child or a surprise flat tire ruin their monthly budget planning and they need help.

Buy what about those the other 25%? What about those who depend on us for their very survival during the year? 162 people, fewer than 7% of all the people who visit the pantry, came 20 times or more. For the Board of Directors, we believe that these people truly do depend on us for their survival. We don’t know what has happened in their lives to make them dependent on us. We don’t know why they are willing to stand in line every time they can to get food. We don’t know their individual stories. But we do know that for those 162 people we are glad to be here when they need us.

FOOD FOR FINES – LIBRARY CREATES WIN-WIN

A community that works together to solve problems is a caring place to call home. We see this in the many different ways local businesses step up to help the pantry. Who would have guessed overdue library books would help



feed those in need in the Alliance community? During the month of December, Rodman Public Library accepted food donations instead of cash from those with overdue library books, and Glenn Rupp and John Whitehair from the Pantry picked up 1,150 pounds of food that were collected. For each brought in, the library forgave \$2 in library fines. Our thanks goes to the library and especially to custodian Donald Lineberger who sorted, boxed and clearly labeled the 1,158 items for easy pickup.

Annual Meeting

On January 20, 2016, the Alliance Community Pantry Board of Directors held its annual meeting. Officers for the for the 2016 year are: President – Glenn Rupp, Vice-President – Mike Patterson, Secretary – Gary Wagner, and Treasurer – Jim Greiner. Jim officially began in January, replacing Bob Shaffer, who had held the post since the pantry opened. Betsy Cornell was welcomed as a new board member. Betsy will serve a three year term.

MOUNT UNION DAY OF SERVICE



On January 18, 2016, the pantry shelves were emptied and scrubbed; the fans were dusted, and the window decorations were washed in a cleaning session done by The University of Mount Union in it's annual MLK Day of Service. Fifteen students and two administrators -- including President Dick Merriman and Academic Dean Ray Posey -- gave the pantry a deep cleaning and helped stock shelves in preparation

for the 4 p.m. opening.

We thank students, faculty and staff for their service, hours of volunteering and support throughout the year.

Nearly 500 Mount students gave of their time this morning serving non-profits all over town in this annual event, and we were honored to be a part of it.



Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Barb Armitage, Past Pres.
- Bet;sy Cornell
- Richard Duro, Emeritus
- Jim Greiner, Treasurer
- Peggy Hawkins
- Carol Henry
- Corrine Hirvela
- Abby Honaker
- Jody Koenigseker
- Neal Mann
- Mike Patterson, Vice Pres.
- Glenn Rupp, President
- Betty Rush
- Bob Shaffer
- Jeff Talbert
- Gary Wagner, Secretary
- John Whitehair
- Renee Young

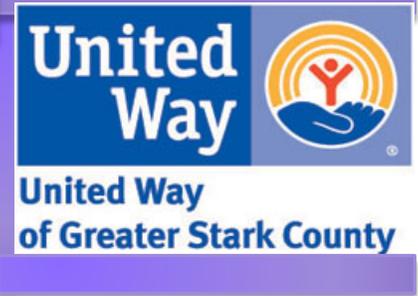
END OF YEAR DONATIONS

Two local donations capped off the year's donations for the pantry.



Shoppers who turned in their receipts at the mall earned the pantry a gift of \$1,250 as we took second place in the mall's holiday contest. Pantry Board President

Glenn Rupp, left, is seen here with Mall Manager Andrea Foley and Mayor Alan Andreani, at the check presentation. Thanks to Mike Patterson for creating the window of photos for the mall contest.



The Alliance American Legion Post 166 presented the Alliance Community Pantry, and three other deserving non-profits, a gift of \$2,000 each. Presenting the donations was Legion Commander Ted Pace, on the left, and accepting the gift from the Pantry were Pantry managers Don and Judy Kingan, at right. Others receiving gifts were the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Alliance Area Domestic Violence Shelter. With the \$2,000 gift, the Pantry will be able to purchase more than 28,000 pounds of food from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

