Working to end hunger in our community.

Alliance Community Pantry

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Barb Armitage, Editor

COMMUNITY BLOCK DEVELOPMENT GRANT – CDBG FUNDS

When we look at our total funding, our budget includes more that just the cost of the food we purchase from the Foodbank. While our "overhead" is very small based on the size of our operation because we don't have any employees, we still have to budget for the cost of getting the food from Akron into the hands of the clients. This includes our truck/gas expenses, our warehouse and building heating and cooling and refrigeration, the technology for keeping track of our data and for screening our clients and of course, insurance, safety equipment, phones and a myriad of other incidentals. We pride ourselves on making our pantry safe and efficient so that we get the most bang for our buck.

Other than our wonderful donors, we receive funds each year from two grants, the Community Development Block Grant and the United Way. These require a submitted grant application, and each has parameters and rules under which we must live. These two grants represent 20% of our total budget. CDBG has allocated funds for 2016 and we are receiving $14,000. We are very grateful to the city for this grant.

Obviously the city has many options for where it invest its CDBG dollars but we feel allocating some of these "flow-through federal funds" to help feed our clients is worth their investment.

Richard Lott of the city and Bob Shaffer, former treasurer and current board member for ACP, review receipts as we submit our expenses for reimbursement from the CDBG.

JOY OF GIVING

The children of Kate and Vince Heslop have learned the joy of giving at an early age. For the last four years Mack, 11, Jenna, 10, and Gabby, 8, have set up a lemonade stand in front of their home in the 900 block of West Summit Street to raise money for various charities; this year, the Pantry.

In just one day during the first week of August -- with a lot of pre-publicity aimed at friends family -- the kids raised $318 and collected 182 pounds of canned food for the Pantry. The money was spit between the Pantry and the Wish Tree at Regina Coeli Catholic Church, but all the food was delivered to the Pantry.

Mack is a sixth-grader at Alliance Middle School, Jenna a fourth-grader at Northside School and Gabby a third-grader at Parkway. What a great summer project!

YOGA CLASS DONATES TO PANTRY

For the fifth year in a row, the YMCA held yoga at Silver Park in September to raise donations for the Alliance Community pantry. Led by Kerry Cockran, It was open to all and was held at the soundstage. Our community finds so many ways to support the pantry and we are grateful.

FINAL REPORT ISSUED FOR

STARK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT

The pantry received a "Planning Grant" last year from the Stark Community Foundation. The purpose of the grant was not to directly benefit the pantry but to use the pantry to access information about hunger in our community. The grant, co-chaired by pantry former board members Dave Puterbaugh and Betsy

Cornell, had two purposes: 1) to form a local coalition of groups involved in hunger work, and 2) to explore the question of who we aren't serving and why they aren't using the pantry's food supply.

Results of the Grant:

The coalition has been formed and organized to work on issues aligned with hunger. They will continue meeting as they search for solutions.

To answer the second component various methods were used. Clients were surveyed as to barriers to their using the pantry. Grant consultant Tina Ughrin interviewed numerous people from various sections of the city at functions that clients might attend (community dinners, etc.). Census data and mapping provided by the MidOhio Foodbank helped ascertain where our greatest numbers of clients live and what percentages are currently being served. The grant learned that the largest numbers of eligible clients live in areas near the pantry and most are being served. In the areas of the community where fewer eligible clients live, many of those eligible do not access the pantry. Primary reasons given were: stigma, transportation, lack of knowledge about qualifying and waiting.

The information gleaned from this 9-month investigation will lay groundwork for future work done to increase services to those in need. We salute Dave and Betsy for their work. A final copy of their report can be checked out at the pantry office during hours.

Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

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United Way of Greater Stark County