



TRUCK FIRE DOMINATES SPRING

Thank heavens no one was hurt, but as our driver Ron Kuceyeksi backed the truck onto the loading dock at the pantry on April 4th after making a run to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, the engine suddenly caught fire.



Quick action by our warehouse volunteers who called 9-1-1, the Alliance Fire Department, and Chris Bradway of the Alliance Loan Co, Pawn Shop, who saw it on their security camera and came running with a big fire extinguisher, the damage was limited to the engine and cab.

None of the more than 9,100 pounds of food that was on board was affected.



An electrical problem is the suspected cause of the sudden fire, according to Glenn Rupp, who chairs the facilities committee. The truck was a total loss and was towed to a salvage yard. We leased a truck until we found and purchased a quality used truck to replace it. The truck

travels to Akron every Monday and Wednesday morning to pickup food at the Foodbank, as well as other major donations of food during the year.



After a diligent search by Glenn, the truck to the left was purchased. It is a 2013 Penske truck that is quite similar in size and shape to ours that burned. It does have a diesel engine. It arrived at the pantry mid May and the story of the truck fire ends happily.

AND NOW, THE GOOD NEWS

So many amazing events surrounded the crises of our truck fire, that we must share a few. Pantry neighbors and friends and even strangers stepped up to help.

Papa John's Pizza, donated 10 percent of its sales to the pantry for 30 days. Using the promo code "Pantry," pizza buyers designated the pantry as a beneficiary and they also placed a pantry donation jar on the counter.



Two foundations who had funded grants for past pantry items and who heard about the fire called to inquire and offer help. Deuble Foundation who funded both of our other trucks, and the Stark Community Foundation, who funded freezer/refrigeration units, called to offer their help. These foundations are pillars in Stark Country and we were humbled by their offers.



Channel 8 Fox news heard about the fire, had a news team in the area and produced a segment about the pantry and fire for evening news. We received \$3,000 from Cleveland donors we don't even know.

We received great local coverage in the Review also, and word spread quickly through our social media posts. People responded. We received an outpouring from local people who knew about the pantry and didn't want our services to be interrupted. These donors, too many to list, have reaffirmed our faith in

our community and people in general.

We were blessed to find that, after the insurance check was received and we totaled donations earmarked for "truck fire" resulting from the news coverage, we had the funds to cover the cost of a replacement truck and rental fees. I was thrilled to inform the willing foundations that this time, we didn't need their help. Thank you seems insufficient to cover our gratitude, but **thank you all.**

Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

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- Betsy Cornell
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- David Daniels
- Marcia Domino
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Feel Good Pantry Story

I recently heard a story that is too good not to share even though I don't know the name of the key person involved. During a period when the pantry was opened, the pantry manager, office manager, and former board member Dave Puterbaugh were in the office when a woman tapped on the door. She entered and handed them a carrot cake for the volunteers that day saying that she used the pantry sometimes and the former week had picked up carrots as part of her groceries. She decided to show her gratitude to the volunteers by baking a cake for them. Volunteering at the pantry is usually a *feel good* task but that particular day the volunteers left with both warm hearts and satisfied palates.