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Barb Armitage, Editor

Founder Dave Named Citizen of the Year.

David Puterbaugh, the driving force behind the founding of the Alliance Community Pantry, was honored at the Carnation Festival's Community Breakfast as the 2018 Citizen of the Year.

Inspired in 2004 by a Alliance Kiwanis Club program about the hunger situation in Alliance, David convened a Kiwanis group who organized monthly food give-aways for five years.



Dave, at the opening of the pantry in 2010

During these, more than 500 people lined up each month to receive a wide selection of food obtained from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. But Dave felt that, "once a month wasn't enough."



Citizen of the Year!

From that experience, it was obvious more was needed, and in November 2010, inspired by David, in conjunction with the Alliance Kiwanis Club and the Council of Churches, the Alliance Community Pantry opened after a year researching food pantries, writing by-laws, and finding a suitable location near downtown. The pantry has served the community of Alliance since that time. Last year, 2,284 different households, representing 7,563 family members, visited the Alliance Community Pantry 16,758 times and went home with 1,117,376 pounds of food. Though Dave is no longer on the Board, he continues to work for the pantry investigating grants and collaborations to improve services.

The pantry isn't David's only contribution to the community. He served on several committees and taught Sunday School at First Presbyterian Church; he's an active Kiwanis Club member, serving as president in 2008-09 and also chaired the Pancake Jamboree for 10 years; he was very active in the Boy Scouts; and was a key organizer of the original Carnation Festival Triathlon.



Mayor's Citizen of the Year
Dave Puterbaugh

Congratulations, David! The community thanks you.

Biggest Social Media Story in Pantry History - Over 1,000 hits!

Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Betsy Brown
- Betsy Cornell
- Joe Cullum
- David Daniels
- Marcia Domino
- Dave Floyd
- Jim Greiner, Treasurer
- Carol Henry
- Jody Konigseker, Pres.
- Kathy Kramer
- Mike Patterson, VP
- Glenn Rupp, Past. Pres.
- Betty Rush
- Bob Shaffer
- Gary Wagner, Secretary
- John Whitehair
- Sonya Wood
- Kyle Woodrow



Thanks to VP of Operations, Mike Patterson, the pantry has a very active Facebook Page, and many enjoy following various stories he posts. While the fire story garnered a huge following due in part to the great tv and newspaper coverage, the story that has received the most “hits” was the story in which we

listed every site in Alliance where a person can get meals.

Because the pantry is interested in helping people get food in every way we can, we use our facebook page to help get the word out about any local event that would help feed people. We shared information

about Stay Fresh truck being at the pantry once a week. We shared information about Saunders opening a grocery where Thornes had been. But the biggest story ever on our web page occurred when we researched, documented and listed on our social media page all the sites, dates and times a person can get meals in Alliance. We received over 1,000 hits. Obviously this was news people wanted and have shared. We distribute this information on a tri-fold at the pantry for our clients.



In some places, meals are offered daily with different community groups preparing and serving the food. Some places offer food once or twice a month. Some have meals once or twice each week. It is important for people who need meals to know when and where they are offered.

Hats’ off to Mike for his diligence in keeping our social media page relevant to all. **Like us** on Facebook at Alliance Community Pantry. (We have over 1,100 likes already!)



ALDI DONATIONS TO RESUME IN OCTOBER

The pantry's last pick up at the Alliance Aldi grocery store until October was made by Paul Domino. We've been picking up food donations from Aldi every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday since mid-May, and the variety, especially the quality produce, has been a great addition to the baked goods we get at Panera's, Giant Eagle and Starbucks.

Aldi is now closed due to major renovation until the end of September. We'll look forward to resuming pickups in early October. We are reminded both of our many business collaborations AND our wonderful volunteers who pick up food each week for the pantry.

