



UNITED WAY WITHDRAWS FUNDING SAYING

PANTRY DOESN'T MEET THEIR NEW BOLD GOALS

Since the pantry opened in 2010, it has had a singular mission, “Getting food to those who need it.” We’ve furnished food to thousands of people during the years with no requirements other than need. Board members were informed in March that we would no longer receive funding support from United Way because they now require that all agencies prove that they align with United Way’s Bold Goals, in our case, improving financial stability. Since we have no way to prove that we help people get out of poverty, we won’t be funded. They need numerical proof.

Although over the years we’ve offered nutrition classes, had health screenings, offered information and support about SNAP & HEAT (government support to those in poverty), and always had fresh produce and meat, because we refuse to require our patrons to take tests proving they’ve learned or changed, UW feels we don’t meet their requirement. United Way has given us \$10,000 each year since we opened, and, as a responsible agency, we’ve furnished the documentation they require about clients, operations, Board, funding and our mission. We will miss our relationship with them and their support.

You deserve to know the thinking of United Way, so I’m including a paragraph from a letter I received from their vice president about why we no longer will be funded. Our program was submitted under the UW Bold Goal of Financial Stability Impact, basically saying that we improve financial stability by providing a safety net for those in poverty, especially the working poor, so that when something happens that makes paying all the bills difficult (sick child, flat tire, loss of job), we offer food so that client money can pay for other things. The response from United Way was:

“Your program bridges many individuals through tough times and food insecurity. The program does not promote long term effects. It is not a reflection of the program, it’s just that the program strategies are not designed to produce long lasting improvements. The focus is on food insecurity.”

United Way’s Council Volunteers have shifted away from these programs towards those that produce behavioral change, and knowledge and skills attainment – changes that are likely to result in sustainable improvements in the client’s financial security, leading to self-sufficiency. The Volunteers have made this clear over the course of the past few years. They have encouraged programs to consider taking one more step. They have candidly shared, that the next step, should be something that leads to long term changes.”

While we respect and admire the BOLD GOAL of eliminating poverty, we remain dedicated to feeding people who need food. I can’t help but think that while the long-term goals are being met for a few, many people may suffer. As the person who has headed funding for the pantry since its opening, I felt our supporters needed to know why United Way is no longer funding us.

Barbara Armitage

JAPANESE STUDENTS VISIT PANTRY AGAIN

The Pantry took on an international flair when 10 students from Japan volunteered as shoppers and helped with re-bagging in the warehouse. The middle school and high school students from Jogakuin School in Hiroshima, along with teacher Florence Smith, visited the University of Mount Union and stayed with local families.

The students' time at the pantry was also filmed for Alliance High School's Channel 11 (channel 1022 on Spectrum) by Brandon Sinkovich, an AHS grad currently at Akron University.

After working all morning at the Pantry, the girls presented a program at the Kiwanis Club.



Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

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

NEXT MONTH - THE TRUCK FIRE

Next month's newsletter will focus on our truck fire, the coverage, the search for a new truck, how our volunteers mitigated the crises, and how our donors stepped up to help purchase a replacement.



SOMMERS SUPPORT CONTINUES

Support for the pantry comes from many places in many ways.

Sommers Market in Hartville calls regularly and donates any extra food. Glenn Rupp usually picks it up. While we were truckless, the grocery delivered it to us. Michael Kilgore delivered big skids of onions, nectarines, limes and coffee creamer for our clients.



We thank Sommers and all the others who support our mission: "Working within the community to end hunger."

LIGHTING UP THE LAKES

The cold and rainy evening may have cut down on the crowd for the sixth annual

Light Up the Lakes event, but those who floated a candle on the Mount Union Lakes left with warm memories of loved ones who have passed.

Organized by Alpha Phi Delta, the event was held this year in the memory of one of their fraternity brothers, Matthew Popovich, who died in 2015 when he was a freshman. All of the contributions received were donated to the Pantry.



