



ACP BOARD SECRETARY RECEIVES ATHENA AWARD

Pat Gates who has been involved in the Pantry for the past few years, first as volunteer coordinator and now as board secretary, was honored as the 2019 Athena Award recipient. This award recognizes professional women who excel in their chosen field and who have devoted time and energy to their community in meaningful ways.

That clearly defines Pat. In addition to her pantry duties, she has been president of the Alliance Kiwanis Club and for the last several years has coordinated the Kiwanis-sponsored Academic Challenge competition among area high school and middle school students; she is a current member of the Habitat for Humanity board of trustees and chair of the Family Selection Committee; she is very active at Union Avenue United Methodist Church as a member of the Altar & Arts Committee and is a consistent driver for Meals on Wheels, and coordinates other drivers. She also participates in Lunch with Leaders program where she mentors students at Alliance High School; when it was open Pat was very involved in the Alliance VFW Post; and served as past president of the Mount Union Alumni Council and past president of Mount's Gamma Theta Chapter of Alpha Delta Pi.

Quoting from Pat's nomination, Dottie Callander, chair of the Athena selection committee, read: "I know of no one else – female or male – who is involved in such a variety of organizations and projects as Pat, with a goal of helping people and making a better community. And anything she takes on is never just to fill a role or to add to her resume, but she dives right in."

The award was presented during the annual Alliance Chamber of Commerce banquet. Congratulations, Pat, for a job well done!



Athena winner Pat Gates, left, and Dottie Callander, chair of the selection committee

SHOPPING AT AMAZON? SMILE, AND THE PANTRY BENEFITS!

If you're a big Amazon shopper, we urge you to start using AmazonSmile. The pantry is now listed as a non-profit at the site. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

A VOLUNTEER FOR THE AGES - TERRA LASHLEY



If you've been to the pantry, you have probably seen the Warehouse Coordinator, Terra Lashley. She does so many jobs at the pantry she seems like she's everywhere.

She's there to make sure there's a crew ready to unload the truck when it arrives. She's there to make sure all the food is properly stored. She's there to make sure bulk food and produce is conveniently repackaged. She makes sure frozen and refrigerated products are correctly handled and rotated. She makes sure the shopping shelves are fully stocked and labeled to make coming to the pantry as welcoming and as convenient as possible for the clients. And the list goes on.

Why does she volunteer her time and talents?

She does it for the people. "I love working with the volunteers and I love the clients," she said. "I try to do everything I can to make the clients more at ease coming through the door." She says it's important to relate to the clients and has convinced many to come back to be volunteers. "I want everyone to feel at home," she said, "You have to talk to them. I think the clients get more from us when we have honest personal contact. Almost all of the clients I get to know will say, 'How can I help?'"

But she has greatest affection for the children and veterans who come to the pantry. She loves playing with the kids, and sometimes keeps them busy while their parents shop. During the holidays she, along with her mother and aunt, put together small gifts along with a personalized wooden plaques to honor every client who's a veteran.

A 1988 graduate of Alliance High School with four children, Terra came to the pantry in 2010 under the guidance of our first managers, Ron and Corliss Vuksa, and became warehouse manager some time later.

"I love my job," she says. The pantry and the clients love that she spends much of her week at ACP.

Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Betsy Brown
- Joe Cullum
- Marcia Domino
- Pat Gates, Secretary
- Jim Greiner, Treasurer
- Carol Henry
- Jan Horning
- Jody Koenigseker, Past Pres.
- Kathy Kramer, President
- Mike Patterson, VP
- Glenn Rupp
- Betty Rush
- Bob Shaffer
- Gary Wagner
- John Whitehair
- Sonya Wood
- Kyle Woodrow

ACP SUPPORTS HARVEST FOR HUNGER PROJECT OF THE FOODBANK

Five Pantry board members attended the kickoff - launching the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's annual Harvest for Hunger campaign. The event is our Foodbank's largest fundraising campaign and it helps support food distribution for the eight-county service area. This campaign also brings together four regional foodbanks and focuses on fighting hunger across 21 Northeast Ohio counties.

Attending the kickoff breakfast were Jody Koinigseker, Kathy Kramer, Carol Henry, Jan Horning and Mike Patterson.

Dan Flowers, president and CEO of the Foodbank, welcomed the attendees and reviewed the accomplishments of 2018 -- 31.5 million pounds of food, representing 24.5 million meals, were distributed with a total value of \$38,788,763. Included in that was 7.3 million pounds of fresh produce. We are always awed by the impact of all the Foodbank does.

