

## CULTURAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUES

Ten Japanese students from Hiroshima Jogakuin High School had an American cultural experience in Alliance in April, which included giving peace presentation programs, attending classes and visiting schools, as well as volunteering at the pantry.



This is the 10th straight year students from Hiroshima have visited the University of Mount Union, and part of the program includes giving back to the Alliance community. One of the ways they do so is by volunteering at the Alliance Community Pantry. Many of the students helped the community members as they shopped for food while others assisted in the warehouse with sorting and packaging food and other items.

The girls were involved in a variety of activities, possibly the most important being guests in the homes of host families. "It has been a challenge for the girls to learn new things," said Florence Smith, a teacher and chaperone from Jogakuin

High School, "and they have grown in ways they never expected. They have loved getting to know their host families and learn all about American culture. Volunteering at the pantry is always a great experience."

They were involved in several classes at Mount Union; shared their involvement in a peace program with the Kiwanis Club and Copeland Oaks; visited Marlinton Middle School; participated in Mount Union's Women's History Month event; visited the pre-school at Union Avenue United Methodist Church; visited the Nature Center; and even spent an afternoon decorating ceramics at Hot Pots.

Both the Japanese students and the Americans they have met have benefitted from interacting with each other and learning about the differences in culture. Helping coordinate the girls' visit has been Dawn Adams, director of international student services at Mount Union.



Thanks to our friends at Wally Armour Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram, more than four dozen of our clients had a ham to serve for Easter dinner. The team from Wally Armour, seen here from left, Stacy Kinney, Shanyn Benning, Kody DeWitt, Haley Armour and Chance Zelenak, brought in 50 hams before Easter and stayed to volunteer.



Thank you, Wally Armour, for your continued support.

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ANNUAL INSPECTION BY FOODBANK



Linda Steinhebel, partnership field advisor for the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, conducted her annual inspection in April. Linda checks our facility and food handling procedures, required client paperwork, the operation of the pantry, our temperature refrigerator and freezer logs, etc., but also participates in a discussion with pantry officers about our needs and how we can continue working together to serve our clients.

Meeting with Linda were key pantry personnel from both board and facility including: David Floyd, Terra Lashley, Kathy Kramer, Jody Koenigseker, Carol Henry, and Mike Patterson. Linda stayed for the Operations meeting following her inspection.

SURPRISE GIFT FROM LAKE COMMUNITY

Thanks to the generosity of Insurance Systems and for Lake Community Federal Credit Union of Alliance for thinking of the pantry, we now have \$500 more to purchase food for our clients.

In exchange for Insurance Systems making a business presentation to Lake Community to be their insurance provider, they made a \$500 gift to a non-profit of Lake Community's choice.



Pantry manager Dave Floyd accepts a check from Michael Hurford, a member service representative for Lake Community.