

2010 - 2019 - GRATITUDE and EMPATHY

When we opened the Alliance Community Pantry nine years ago this November, we were filled with gratitude for our donors and empathy for our clients. Now, nine years later, we continue to be overwhelmed with both.

This year as I prepared to write the November newsletter, I happened to read an article reporting that many Ohio pantries were experiencing longer waiting lines and less food for their clients,



though the need continues. The assumption was that, as the news loudly reports, with low unemployment numbers, people think that the need is less. While our donors have stood with us for the most part, we too have occasionally heard this.

While our client list changes constantly, in addition to the disabled, the homeless, the struggling seniors, the single moms and dads, there has emerged a newer group, the working poor. We've always been aware that these were some of our clients; that's why we offer morning and evening hours, but now this group has become larger with more people working but not being able to make ends meet some months. One cracked



windshield, one clogged toilet, one broken appliance, one unexpected bill can make the end of the month loom ominous. We want to continue to be the safety net for the working poor to help them avoid missing a rent payment or not having gas for the car.

On October 22nd, I visited the pantry — always a bustling place — and found fresh produce, multiple meat options, milk and dairy products, and the usual crew of faithful volunteers. My heart warmed as cars were loaded and groceries selected. I chatted with longtime volunteers and stood awed by the youthful face of a med student from KSU who volunteers. Former Manager, Dave Goldman, was shopping with a client, and current Manager Dave Floyd was handling the cart behind him. It







continues, new people and veterans, as a well oiled machine.

If you have not yet considered your annual donation, please consider making it now as our need continues. You can be justly proud of how your donation is used and how many of your community members are being fed. Editor, Barb Armitage

BOWLING WITH TURKEYS - 2019

One of the most unusual and certainly one of the most fun events which donates money to the pantry is the annual Turkey Bowl, held at the Naborhood Inn and started by the Maroon



Club there.

This year the Turkey Bowl will be held on November 8, fun beginning at 6:00 and bowling beginning at at 6:30. There will be baskets and a 50/50 raffle, but the real fun is trying to guide/slide/ throw a frozen turkey down the alley to knock over the pins. Sounds easy? Strikes were hard to come by last year, as noted by personal experience, but laughs abounded.

We thank all who participate, who watch, and who bid on a

basket, as proceeds go to the pantry. We especially thank Jeff Walker and all his staff, and the wonderful members of the Maroon Club.

Alliance Community **Pantry Board Members**

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KENT STATE UNIVERSITY NURSING STUDENTS VOLUNTEER

We welcomed this semester's Kent State nursing students in Pam Rafferty-Semon's Community Health class to the pantry one Tuesday morning in October, where they learned about the pantry from manager David Floyd and warehouse manager Terra Lashley.

Students will be volunteering every Tuesday as shoppers, and they will be back in the waiting room performing blood pressure screenings and offering health information and handouts to our clients. While helping our clients, this symbiotic experience also offers students an opportunity to hear the stories and learn about the face of poverty first hand.

