



## NATIONAL FOODBANK ISSUES REFLECTED IN OUR PANTRY, TOO!

If you watch the news you are aware that nationally, food pantries and Foodbanks are struggling in some places. The Alliance Pantry has been opened nearly 10 years, and we get 95% of our food from the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank. While we get produce, milk, lots of bread from local donors, and regular local food drives help us offer variety, 95% of the food distributed arrives via the Foodbank. Twice each week our 26' box truck visits the Foodbank in Akron and brings back 8,000 to 12,000 pounds of food selected and ordered by our food orderer, Leigh Mainwaring, pictured right.



Like everything else, the ordering process, too, has been impacted by the virus. To order, food offered for ordering appears on a computer screen each day and Leigh selects what our pantry needs after checking with the pantry warehouse. Historically she would have 8-9 screens of items to select from. Now the number of screens is 3-5. Fortunately there are items available and many are free.

The availability of meat and produce has been affected the most. We have been blessed by various local meat distributors with donations. Luckily, we also received a grant earlier this year to purchase meat.



Another interesting problem is packaging. Instead of several dozen eggs in little cartons, we got 500 dozen eggs in a big box that requires finding egg cartons and then packaging them. This takes additional volunteers and time. Also when ordering items Leigh has to be cognizant that we are prepacking boxes so she has to think about what will fit in them.

Always looking for fun and unusual items, Leigh was able to get Girl Scout cookies through the Foodbank recently. Yummy, but alas, no Thin Mints.

While we continue to review protocols, change procedures to make the process easier, and adapt to many new issues, we are blessed that our pantry continues to operate smoothly and serve our clients.

### PANTRY VOLUNTEERS MAKE ADJUSTMENTS IN SERVICE TO PROVIDE FOR CLIENTS

In this time of COVID-19, the Alliance Community Pantry continues to serve the community while taking precautions to assure the health and safety of its clients and volunteers.

The pantry has continued its regular hours of 4 to 7 p.m. on Mondays & Wednesdays and 9 a.m. to noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but during this time volunteers are providing curbside service with prepared boxes of food.

After registering, clients pull up in their cars to receive a box of canned and boxed food, plus meat, produce, baked goods and refrigerated items such as milk, eggs and cheese.

Volunteers, shown right are filling grocery baskets in preparation.



### Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

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### FARMERS AND PANTRY WORK TOGETHER TO PROVIDE MILK FOR CLIENTS.

In order to help local farmers, Anthony VanPelt, managing member of Progressive Farm Equipment in western Columbiana, donated 192 gallons of milk to the pantry.

With schools and restaurants closed and the demand of milk in decline, this is a perfect gift to help both farmers and our clients. Thank you!



### ROOF RESURFACED AT PANTRY

Mike Fagan Roof & Sheet Metal is resurfacing the pantry roof, which was long overdue.

The work, made possible through a \$24,000 Community Development Block Grant, will include replacing rotten wood along the edges, covering the entire roof with insulation and then resurfacing the roof with rubber sheeting.

Brandon Sinkovich, using his drone, was able to capture some of the work being done in this photo.

