



REFLECTIONS ON PANTRY FROM THE FIRST 10 YEARS

The following article contains excerpts from a Letter to the Editor written by Dave Puterbaugh, the primary founder and “force” behind the formation of the Alliance Community Pantry 10 years ago.



One of the things that the COVID 19 shutdown affected was the desire to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding and opening of the Alliance Community Pantry in November, 2010.

Three of the founders, Barb Armitage, Betsy Cornell and Dave Puterbaugh, met recently for an evening of remembering. (The two other founders were Gloria Whiteley-Magrath and Matt Stinson.) Reflecting on the pantry’s history, we discussed the key things that made the ACP so successful and widely used. The underlying principle was a mission to reach out to many people who had a key need, FOOD.

Major factors that contributed to the success were:

- * Community buy-in/ownership (Many clubs and churches furnished volunteers in the early days.)
- * Our ability to purchase food inexpensively from the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank.
- * Thanks to donations and grants from the First Presbyterian church, Greater Alliance Foundation, First Christian Church and original Board, the ACP owned our building from the beginning.
- * We have had capable, dedicated, volunteer leadership that has continued over the years.
- * Over the 10 years we have had an amazing steadfast group of volunteers.
- * We have had strong community financial support from the very beginning - individuals, service groups (Kiwanis was an original and founding supporter), businesses, churches, and organizations.
- * The founding members and organizations (First Christian Church and Alliance of Churches) had trust and faith in each other and an appreciation of each member’s talents and skills.
- * Dave Puterbaugh, whose determination and dedication to this cause kept us focused and working.



COMFORT AND WARMTH

Two longtime friends with more than a century of combined experience in crocheting, once again are using their talents to help others. Judy Douglas and Deb Carter have spent the last few months crocheting scarves and hats to be given to pantry clients.

They delivered more than 100 scarves and hats to the pantry. Judy, who also serves as Monday's day manager at the pantry, makes the scarves, which take about a day, and Deb can turnout about three hats a day. For these friends from First Baptist Church, this is the fourth year they've made the cold-weather items from yarn, much of which had been



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MOUNT ANNUAL TRICK OR TREAT HELD

As they have for many years, Mount Union students, organized in teams and sponsored through the Regula Center, directed by Abby Honaker Schroeder, collected canned food and other essentials during Halloween week for the ACP. Seen below are students delivering and weighing food. Middle: weights collected by various teams were mounted for all to see. The Alpha Tau Omegas collected the most pounds with over 1,000. Total pounds collected for the pantry was over 4,600 pounds.

Food was also provided to Mount's Raiders Cove, Mount's food pantry for students. Chairs for the event were: Americorps students Destanee O'Neil, Rob Walker, Justin Sturgell and Alyssa Eyth.

