



PANTRY BOARD CONTINUES MEETING VIA ZOOM



The pantry kicked off its 11th year of operation with our board meeting via Zoom. Led by a new board president Carol Henry, we welcomed four new board members, reviewed 2020 and looked ahead to the new year.

Carol, left, has been on the board since 2010 and oversees our screening operation, replaces Kathy Kramer, who served as president for two years. New board members, seen below are Bruce Helsel, Ivory Lyons, Missy Miller, and Beth Simbro.

Stepping down, and thanked for their years of service, were Joe Cullum, David Floyd, Jody Koenigseker and John Whitehair. Pat Gates, board secretary, has agreed to assume duties as volunteer coordinator.

Despite being forced to drastically adjust operations because of the Covid-19 pandemic, a review of 2020 showed another successful year helping feed those

in need. These were included in last month's newsletter. None of this could happen without our wonderful loyal volunteers, and the support of individuals, businesses, schools, churches, clubs and all throughout the community.



Others continuing on the board are Betsy Brown, Stephen Dages, Marcia Domino, Jim Greiner, Jan Horning, Marty Magdalenz, Mike Patterson, Betty Rush, Glenn Rupp and Marge Simmons. Kathy Kramer is continuing on the board.



FOOD! GLORIOUS FOOD! LET’S TALK ABOUT FOOD!

Over 10 years ago before the pantry opened, I have vague memories of Betsy Cornell and Dave Puterbaugh (former board members) and I arguing about whether to order peanut butter or soup for the pantry opening. Fortunately early in our pantry’s life, Leigh Mainwaring volunteered to handle all food ordering and she has been doing it ever since. We reminisced amid laughs of the many snafus and mini-crises over the years.



The process begins with Leigh constantly scanning the Foodbank’s food-list to see what is available (left) , checking with pantry management to see what we need, and ends with her finalizing the order each week. But during the long process,

we’ve had a few memorable moments.



Food Ordering Memories

- Truck Fire - a memory that always makes us give thanks for local heroes -both those working at the pantry and for the city

- Popcorn - 100’s of pounds ordered - not knowing it was in 50# bags - imagine, if you can, how we got rid of it

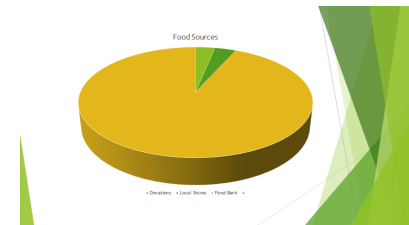
- STP - accidental ordering of bottles of car ignition additive (which food shelf do we put it on?)

- Pounds of Ketchup - cheap - BUT we didn’t know that it was in 1 oz. pks - EKEKEKEK

- Vegetarian anything - our clients are not into vegetarian foods

- Unusual Meats - When you order generic meat boxes, you get it all: steak, pork chops, chicken, venison, crab legs, tongue and tripe. We loved that people were excited about some of the unusual ones.

The pie chart on the right shows that we get almost all of our food from the Foodbank and she orders all of that. It’s a big job and we’re lucky.



As we ended our call, I asked her, “If you could order whatever people wanted most and always have it, what would you order?” Her immediate reply:

“Staples: sugar, coffee, flour, butter, eggs, milk, bisquick, syrup. While we are lucky to get any of these occasionally, I’d love to have them all, all the time.” I agree but until then, I’m grateful Leigh is willing to manage our food orders, whether she’s in bed or not.

Alliance Community Pantry Board Members

- Betsy Brown
- Steve Dages
- Marcia Domino
- Pat Gates, Sec
- Jim Greiner, Treas
- Bruce Helsel
- Carol Henry, Pres
- Jan Horning
- Kathy Kramer, Past P
- Ivory Lyons
- Marty Magdalenz
- Missy Miller
- Mike Patterson, VP
- Glenn Rupp
- Betty Rush
- Beth Simbro
- Marge Simmons

