



**FAITH IN HUMANITY RENEWED AS 50 YEARS LATER,
GROUPS JOIN FORCES TO FEED HUNGRY**

In late October the pantry received notice that we would be receiving a large truck of food for three non-profits in Alliance. The Review carried the entire story and it was so extraordinary that it merits repeating. Space prohibits that, but suffice it to say that one of those “larger than life” miracles took place. For an error that occurred over 50 years ago to 14 young men, some of those seeking to “make things right,” joined the 14 who were wronged to donate to cities across the nation who were touched by these men. The local hero was Lionel Grimes who was one of the 14.



The truck arrived from Salt Lake City, Utah, carrying 38,876 pounds of food and cleaning supplies to be shared with the pantry, Michael's World, and the Spirit of Faith Christian Center led by the Rev. Raymont Johnson.

The food was distributed to local non-profits selected by Lionel Grimes -- one of the football players kicked off the University of Wyoming football team in 1969 for wanting to protest treatment they received the previous year when they played Brigham Young University. BYU is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and 52 years later, to make up for that incident, the church made donations to non-profits selected by each of the Black 14.



Warehouse organizer Terra Lashley, pantry manager Debbie Skubiak, Lionel Grimes, and board president Betsy Brown.

The 53-foot truck, was driven by Stawand Singh, and the unloading and distribution of the 1,517 cartons of food and supplies, was coordinated by pantry warehouse volunteer Joe Cullum with plenty of help from other pantry volunteers including Glenn Rupp and Bruce Helsel who help load our pantry truck, and local members of the Mormon Church, including Elder Kevin Birch, head of the church in Ohio.

Pantry manager Debbie Skubiak was in communication with the church members before the arrival and gave them a tour of the pantry.

Pantry Volunteer Headed to Med School

In October 2019, Russ Kring, a Kent State University pre-med student from Alliance, decided he needed to "get involved in the community" He's been volunteering ever since as part of the Wednesday night team, but his time here will likely be limited next year as he has recently been accepted into medical school at Northeast Ohio Medical School.

Becoming a physician has always been his dream and right now he's planning to become an emergency room doctor because of the variety he'll work with. "I've always been interested in a wide variety of things," he said. He has mechanic skills, plays the guitar, played soccer and ran track in school, and he's recently taken up boxing.



"Russ is an exceptional leader and volunteer," said Joan Gecina, Wednesday's team leader. "He is beyond efficient and very well liked by everyone." He will be missed, and we wish him well.

UMU HALLOWEEN TRICK OR TREAT CONTINUES TO BE SUCCESSFUL!

Thanks to the generosity of the Alliance community, the University of Mount Union's Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods brought in a record 6,820 pounds of food that was donated to the Alliance Community Pantry.



In the event, organized by Mount Union's [Regula Center for Public Service](#), students went door-to-door to collect canned goods. The 6,280 pounds of food is 1,642 pounds more than the previous record set in 2020. In the 10 years since the event's inception, more than 40,000 pounds of food has been donated to the Pantry.

The Mount Union Student Nursing

Organization and Alpha Delta Pi sorority both collected more than 1,100 pounds of food.



"Our students learn from experiences like Trick-or-Treat for Canned Goods, and we could not provide service opportunities

without our partners," said Abby Schroeder, director of the Regula Center. "We value the collaboration we have with local agencies and the support we see from the community."



"We at the pantry treasure the support and the relationship we have with Mount Union, and events like trick-or-treat enable us to give our clients a wider selection of food choices than we are normally able to get," said Pantry Board Member Mike Patterson.