

**Alliance Community Pantry**  
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**BUCKEYE GIRLS STATE ONCE AGAIN RETURNS TO ALLIANCE**

Since 2011, Ohio Buckeye Girls State (BGS) delegates have spent a week at Mount Union and it always benefits our pantry. Pat Gates, our board president, talked to the girls assigned to the Recreational Commission, informing them about the pantry and the support the girls provide.



Pat Gates talks about the pantry.

BGS is a week-long program designed to educate Ohio's young women in the duties, privileges, rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. By getting involved in this active hands-on process, BGS delegates learn more about city, county and state government.

All the 474 delegates brought food to donate to the pantry and the 11-girl Parks & Recreation Commission, and two advisors took the food to the pantry on their last day. They delivered 1,280 pounds of food and they helped our volunteers make and fill boxes in preparation for our next opening.



In addition to the food collected, Girls State officials also donated a check for \$275 to pantry treasurer Jim Greiner. Seen presenting check were Karen Peel, director of Music and Recreation, left, and Colleen Phillips, State President.

This was the 12<sup>th</sup> year Mount Union hosted BGS for its week-long program designed to educate Ohio's young women in the roles of good citizenship and government. In addition to learning more about city, county and state government, they also experience the joy of giving. And we are so grateful for their generosity and continued interest in the ACP. BGS is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of the state of Ohio and this year, Governor Dewine spoke to them on Tuesday.

## TANK GIVES BACK

One of the advantages of working in an all-volunteer organization are the wonderful people you get to meet. Volunteers are a collection of caring people who simply want to improve the community and the lives of others.



One of those is Herbert "Tank" Cox, a recent transplant from Cleveland who has found Alliance to be a "nice quiet town" in which to live. He followed a friend down in 2019 and since then has decided to stay. After a busy career which included working for UPS, laying floors,

running a cleaning business and working as a cook after earning his culinary degree, he is now motivated to just "give back."

On Monday and Wednesday evenings he volunteers at the pantry where he helps people load food into their cars. He never wants recognition, nor is he an official volunteer. He just wants to help!

"My nature is to give," he said, "If you need a hand, I'll give you a hand." He credits his parents for this giving spirit. Both his parents were preachers in Cleveland. His mother recently passed, but his father is still preaching.

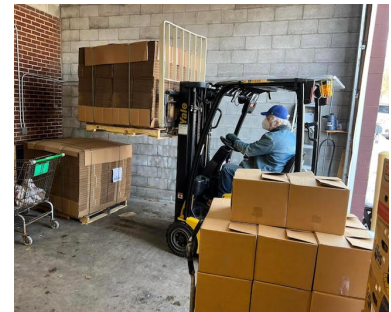
Tank is certainly giving our clients and volunteers, too, a valuable lesson.

## BOXES: WE ALWAYS NEED BOXES

When the pantry was forced to adjust our way of operating because of the Covid pandemic more than two years ago, we had to switch the way we did business to allow for proper social distancing. That meant rather than come into the pantry to "shop," clients now pick up their food outside that had been boxed and collected by volunteers.

To do this we needed a consistent supply of boxes. Thankfully, we discovered McElroy Packaging of Orrville which has supplied us with boxes for the last two years. June 16, 2020 was their first delivery of 2,000 boxes and their most recent was June 21 2022 -- in those two years we have received 22,700, 12x12x10-inch boxes that our trusty volunteers tape, fill and deliver to our clients.

Joe Cullum, one of our valued volunteers always arranges to meet the McElroy truck to unload and stack the boxes.



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