



JAPANESE VISITORS VOLUNTEER

Clients and volunteers at the Alliance Community Pantry had an international experience in late March as 10 students from Japan were part of the volunteer crew to pack boxes, fill baskets, rebag produce and baked goods, and deliver food to client's cars.

Jogakuin High School students from Hiroshima, Japan, visited the University of Mount Union and, as in the past, part of their experience was volunteering at the pantry. The Japanese students have not visited Mount since 2019 because of Covid.

Accompanying the students were Jogakuin teachers Florence Smith, who has brought students twice in the past, and Yuri Hoshino, who was making her first trip to Alliance. Since Japan has strong social welfare programs supported by the government, food pantries are rare in Japan, so this is a new experience for the girls.



The students stayed with host families for a busy week. After the pantry experience, they had a Peace and Justice Discussion at Mount. They started one day with a Cultural Exchange at Union Avenue UMC Preschool followed by Mount class discussions, a Social Justice talk with Mount Chaplain Tim Morrison, and a Party with the Japanese Club.

They visited Dr. Niki Johnson's Peacebuilding Social Justice honors class before presenting a program at the Kiwanis Club.

PAT GATES HONORED!

Pat Gates, an Alliance Community Pantry board member and an active volunteer in many non-profits, received the Mary Regula Community Service Award on March 23rd, at Mount Union's Regula Center's Annual Meeting.



Pat has volunteered at the pantry for several years. A former board president and former secretary, she currently is volunteer coordinator and she volunteers weekly to screen clients and organize DoorDash deliveries.

But the pantry is not her only activity. She is a very active Kiwanis Club member and former club president who helps with the club's Waffle Wagon at Carnation Days in the Park. She helps organize the annual Pancake Jamboree, and has coordinated the annual Academic Challenge event the last few years for

competing area high schools.

She's also an active member and on the board of Alliance Habitat for Humanity where she's on the Family Selection Committee, and for years has delivered Meals on Wheels. At Union Avenue United Methodist Church she is on the Altar & Arts Committee, often does Children's Moments during church services, and is the new secretary for Administrative Council sessions. She is also active at the Alliance VFW Post.

Alliance Community Pantry Board

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- Pat Gates
- Jim Greiner- Treas.
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- Chris Schade
- Beth Simbro
- Marge Simmons
- Cathy Torma
- John Whitehair

ACP BOARD OF DIRECTORS



First row, from left, are Glenn Rupp, President Bruce Helsel, Ivory Lyons, Secretary Jim Perone, Treasurer Jim Greiner, and Vice President Mike Patterson. Second row, from left, are John Whitehair, Beth Simbro, Betty Rush, Chris Schade, Betsy Brown, Cathy Torma, Jan Horning, Pat Gates, and Tim Morrison. Not pictured are Missy Miller and Marge Simmons.