



HONORING A LOVED ONE AT *LIGHT UP THE LAKES* - BENEFITS THE PANTRY



Despite rainy weather, the annual Light Up the Lakes event held at the Mount Union lakes was a huge success. Now in its 10th year, the event is organized the Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service club. Participants donated \$3 and were given a tissue paper lantern on which they wrote



names of loved ones before lighting and floating it.



Money collected was donated to the Alliance Community Pantry.

Left, APO , event chair Gaycyn Sages, delivered a check for \$2,171 and 209 pounds of food to pantry President Bruce Helsel following the event. This was their largest donation in the 10 year history. We appreciate all they do.



RETURNING TO BAGS OVER BOXES

When the Covid pandemic hit we were forced to change our way of getting food to our clients. No longer could we operate like a small grocery with baskets and aisles. With Covid we had to require more social distancing. We started boxing food and taking it to the clients who loaded it into their cars.



After three years of delivering food outside, clients and volunteers have gotten used to it, and we will probably continue it until we come up with a better idea.

A month or so ago, Jim Greiner and the Tuesday crew

suggested that, instead of putting food in boxes we could just use plastic bags,



which we now are doing. Clients find bags easier to

handle once it gets to the car and it saves on the cost of the boxes. We still box food for our 20 or so DoorDash deliveries every week, but other than that we are sending our clients home with plastic bags filled with food.

We appreciate our volunteers who adapted to our new way of doing things and for our clients who

keep coming back.



In April pantry manager Debby Skubiak reported that numbers were increasing since COVID. According to news, this is happening to food pantries all over the nation as safety nets put in place to help people get through covid are stopping. One Monday night, Deb's crew of only 6 served 106 clients.

Alliance Community Pantry Board

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RECENT LOSSES

During the last month the pantry lost two volunteers who made contributions to the pantry in many ways.

First Jan Puterbaugh, wife of founder Dave Puterbaugh, passed suddenly. Jan had served as a volunteer who registered clients and long time pantry volunteer.

Also we learned of the passing of former Pantry Manager Rich McCrae who was manager in our early years. Rich had retired and was living in Florida.