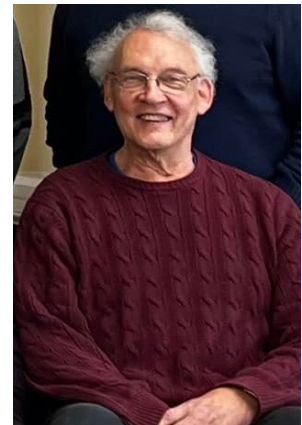




HOW DO WE KEEP THINGS WORKING

One of the questions frequently asked by people who visit the pantry is, “How does this work without any paid employees? Most non-profits have at least one or two employees who do the required paperwork, find volunteers, fix things that break, and make decisions. How do you do it?”

When the pantry opened, a key factor for the founders was assuring our donors that, “all funds donated would go toward getting food to people who need it.” We have been able to do this for several reasons, but the primary one is our amazing group of dedicated volunteers. We have a definite structure and various positions including: board, pantry manager, day managers, warehouse coordinator, office coordinator, drivers, and a raft of others including those volunteers who pick up donations and those pack food and distribute the food.



One key group who keep the wheels turning is the **Operations Committee**. This group meets monthly and is led by our VP of Operations, Mike Patterson, right. They discuss everything involved in running the pantry and include the coordinator or manager of every arm of the pantry. They troubleshoot concerns - from lighting and cleanliness to what’s broken, and amount of distributed food. They make suggestions to the board of needs, ideas for improvements and methodology for making the pantry run smoothly. The meetings are held via ZOOM meetings, and last month’s itinerary included:

- Carnation Queen contestants are having a food drive for us in July
- Getting coverage for volunteers on vacations
- Pat Gates acts as our liaison with the Stark Hunger Task Force
- SNAP government benefits ended and we’re seeing additional numbers
- Obtaining new volunteers to over for those student volunteers from Mount Union
- Review compliance rules for Foodbank and city
- Get coverage for pick-up from Paneras for vacationing volunteers

As you can tell from this one month’s list, this group is integral to pantry operations. We salute them and thank them.

COMPUTER UPGRADE

One way to be able to operate a non-profit organization with nothing but volunteers is to provide a comfortable and up-to-date work environment. That's what we've always worked to do at the Pantry and, thanks to James Simbro, we have a new up-dated computer system to help our volunteers better serve our clients.

A couple of years after opening the Pantry in November 2010 we joined PantryTrak, a computer program to maximize service to our clients by minimizing paperwork and improve reporting accuracy, and simplifying our registration and "check-in" process. PantryTrak helps link volunteers, suppliers, donors, and food banks directly to the needs



of our clients being served.

It was time to replace our old computers in the screening room and James, whose wife Beth serves on our board, this week installed two new Dell desktop computers with Windows 11, and two new 24-inch monitors which will be put to good use, especially as we reregister our clients in July.

Alliance Community Pantry Board

Betsy Brown
Pat Gates
Jim Greiner- Treas.
Bruce Helsel- Pres.
Jan Horning
Ivory Lyons
Missy Miller
Tim Morrison
Mike Patterson- VP
Jim Perone - Sec.
Glenn Rupp
Betty Rush
Chris Schade
Beth Simbro
Marge Simmons
Cathy Torma
John Whitehair

Mount Union Ends another Year

The Ralph and Mary Regula Center for Public Service, under the direction of Abby Schroeder, organizes and contributes to us while helping college students learn about philanthropy, donating time, and working within a community to better life for all. They sponsor our Halloween Food Drive, the Trash to Treasure at the end of the year, and MLK Day of Service, to name a few. We encourage the students to enjoy their summers, but we'll surely welcome them back in August.

Some students graduated and some left for home for the summer but as we bid them farewell, we are reminded of the impact of the University on our pantry. While we have volunteers and donors from every element of our community, few touch us more frequently than the students of Mount Union. From thousand of pounds of food collected at Halloween, to numerous days of deep cleaning, and Light up the Lakes by APO, the service fraternity, Mount Union supports us.