Chris Schade, Editor

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Community Pantry

Working to end hunger in our community.

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Alliance onnunity Panta 215 E. Market St., PO Box 2581 Alliance, Ohio 44601

THANKING OUR TRUCKERS







We all try to work as a well-oiled machine at the pantry, and as an all-volunteer operation there are some volunteers that our clients, and even some of our other volunteers, never see.

Those would be the men who drive to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank early every Monday and Wednesday morning to bring back the food for our clients. Without them we would not be in business.

In 2023 our business has picked up, almost to pre-Covid levels, which means our truck drivers -- and actually all our volunteers -- have been busier than ever. We have a driver and an assistant to help load on every truck.

Last year they made 98 trips to the Foodbank (57 to Akron and 41 to Canton) and came back with 877,711 pounds of food. That's a little more than 100,000 pounds than they picked up in 2022.

Former pantry manager Don Kingan schedules the truckers to pick up the food that Leigh Mainwaring orders.

Current truckers are, Paul Domino, Bruce Helsel, Ron Kuceyeski, Rudy Roggencamp, Glenn Rupp, James Sedoris, John Whitehair, Jeff Wuthrick, and Dave Zoky. We couldn't operate without them.



The number of people served last year at our Alliance Community Pantry was nearly back to pre-Covid-19 figures based on the statistics revealed in 2023.

They show that after three years of the effects of Covid-19, which started in 2020 -- including the lingering need for social distancing and the tax breaks and federal assistance our clients gained through the American Rescue Plan -- our numbers are moving back up to what they were in 2019.

Last year our pantry was visited 12,942 times by 1,898 different households which housed 5,534 individuals. That is 542 more households and 1,569 more individuals that came to be served during 8,822 visits in 2022.

Business certainly picked up. We also served 693 new first-time clients last year.

The amount of food received and passed out also increased dramatically last year. Our clients went home with 979,163 pounds of food last year which included 877,711 purchased from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank which our drivers picked up in 98 trips on Monday and Wednesday mornings. We also had 101,452 pounds donated to our pantry from a variety of sources.

Among those businesses who consistently donate are Aldi, Panera Bread, Giant Eagle and Big Lots.

2023 PANTRY STATISTICS

Different households served – 1,898 Individuals in those households – 5,534 Total number of visits – 12,942 Number of new clients – 693 Pounds of food from Foodbank – 877,711 Pounds of food donated – 47,696 Pounds of extra food purchased -- 1,840 Pounds of food collected locally – 51,831 Aldi 33,793; Panera 12,314; Giant Eagle 2,622, Big Lots 3,077

Total pounds distributed to clients – 979,163 Pounds clients received each visit – 75.66 Spent on food -- \$89,985 Number of trips to the food bank – 98 Number of days the pantry was open – 147

FOOD DONATION

Thanks!



The American Legion Post 166 in Alliance has always been one of the many organizations in town to support our pantry over the years. The tradition continued this month when Legion Commander Ted Pase, on the left, presented a \$2,000 check to Pantry treasurer Jim Greiner. We thank the Legion for its continued support.



FROM 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