



## MEIJER'S "SIMPLY GIVE" PROGRAM TO HELP ALLIANCE PANTRY

The Alliance Community Pantry is proud to announce a partnership with the new Meijer store to provide much-needed relief to local families facing food insecurity through Meijer's customer-driven hunger relief program, "Simply Give." The Meijer store opened Tuesday, May 14th.

The program encourages customers to add a \$10 "Simply Give" donation card to their cart, which is then converted into a Meijer food-only gift card and given to a local food pantry in the store's community.

Each Meijer "Simply Give" campaign feeds hungry families by helping replenish the shelves of more than 260 food pantries in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

"We at the Pantry are grateful to Meijer for the opportunity to supplement our food choices for our clients," said Debbie Skubiak, manager of the Alliance Community Pantry. "With coupons made possible through their "Simply Give" program we can get food from their store that is not available from other choices."

The Alliance Community Pantry will benefit from donation cards at the Alliance Meijer store now through June 29. In addition, Meijer will double match all customer cards on Saturday, June 15, effectively tripling contributions made on this day. Meijer customers shopping online using Meijer Pickup or Home Delivery can also include "Simply Give" donation cards as an add-on to their orders.

"We encourage our community to give and help us feed their neighbors in need in Alliance by purchasing a Meijer "Simply Give" food donation card during their next shopping trip," said Skubiak.

Since 2008, more than \$90 million has been distributed by Meijer to food pantries across the Midwest to feed neighbors in need.

"What's special about the Meijer "Simply Give" program is each contribution stays local and directly impacts neighborhood food pantries to help feed families in need," said Melissa Conway, director of Community Partnerships & Giving at Meijer. "Food

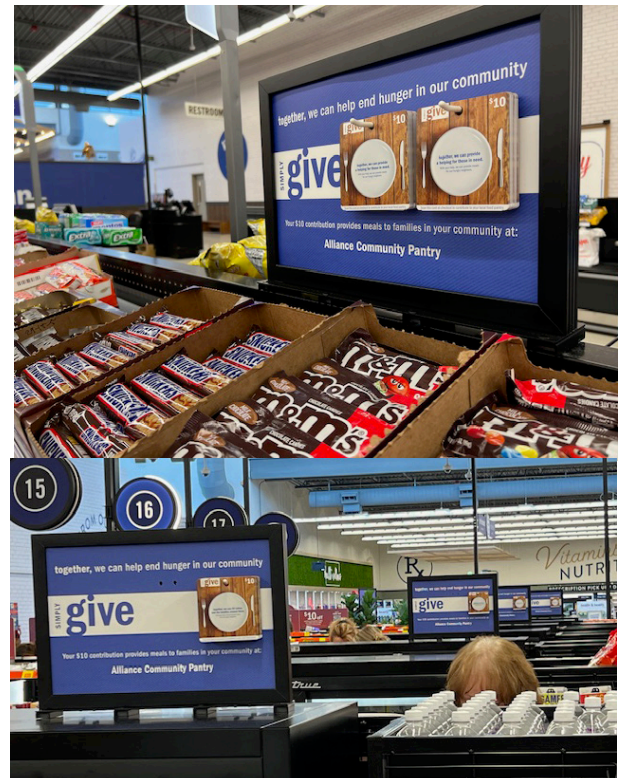
insecurity remains a national issue and at Meijer, we're grateful for our customers and team members who continue to support this program, now in its 15th year."

Inspired by a 2004 Kiwanis Club program about hunger in Alliance, the local club started a monthly food giveaway that would attract sometimes more than 500 people in an afternoon. From that experience the Alliance Pantry was opened on Nov. 15, 2010. Since then it has operated as an all-volunteer, non-profit organization with the motto: "Working Within the Community to End Hunger."

Through the years the pantry has received support from all over the community, from businesses, to schools, churches, many service clubs and organizations, and of course individuals. But it's the volunteers, who have a wide range of talents, that make it all work.

Last year the pantry was visited 12,942 times by 1,898 different households which housed 5,534 individuals, and they went home with 979,163 pounds of food in 2023.

The pantry located at 215 E. Market St. is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. and Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

~You can find simply give displays at each checkout



# Kiwanis Club get a tour of the Alliance Pantry they helped start 14 years ago

Jim Perone, secretary of the Alliance Community Pantry board, offered a recent program for the Alliance Kiwanis Club and gave them a tour and an update on the work of the pantry and its evolution since it opened Nov. 15, 2010.

Inspired by a 2004 Kiwanis program by Lisa Miller about the hunger situation in Alliance, for five years the Alliance Kiwanis Club, led by member David Puterbaugh, organized monthly food give-aways where more than 500 people lined up once a month to receive a wide selection of food obtained from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

From that experience they teamed with others and the Pantry opened on Nov. 15, 2010, and since then it has operated as an all-volunteer non-profit organization with the motto: "Working Within the Community to End Hunger."

Through the years we have received amazing support from all over the community, from businesses, to schools, churches, many

service clubs and organizations, and of course individuals. But it's the volunteers who make it all work. It takes about 50 volunteers a week with a wide range of talents, and without them they would not be able to operate.

And the volunteers are flexible. In the last three years, because of Covid, the pantry had to transition from being a select pantry, set up like a little store four days a week, to now, where volunteers box up canned food, produce, meat, baked goods and milk to deliver outside to clients' cars three days a week.



## PANTRY FASHION

It's been a few years since we've offered shirts and sweats to our volunteers to show off their work at the pantry and longtime Wednesday day manager Joan Gecina thought it was time we offer some new ones.

For anyone who wants one, the descriptions are posted on the pantry's office window, as is a sheet to place an order. There's a variety of types and a wide range of colors available, all with the pantry logo.

Short sleeve t-shirts are \$12, long sleeve t-shirts are \$15, polo sport shirts are \$18, and zip-up hoodies are \$25.

If interested, orders should be placed and payments made by June 12. Call Joan at the Pantry, 330-680-8130 with any questions.



### FROM ALLIANCE COMMUNITY PANTRY BOARD

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