



QUEENS' GIFTS

Back on June 20, the Carnation Festival queen candidates continued a tradition that started in 2011 when they competed to see who could collect and donate the most food to our Alliance Community Pantry.

This year's winner was Kaitlyn Waite who brought in more than 800 pounds of food. She is an Alliance High School senior and was sponsored by White Physical Therapy.

She and the other candidates were recognized at the Elks Club during a gathering of parents and sponsors held prior to the Carnation Queen Pageant on July 27. More than 1,900 pounds of food were donated this year and since it started queen candidates have delivered to the pantry more than 38,000 pounds.



OUR FRIENDS AT PANERA



We get support in many ways from many businesses, but few as long and consistent as Panera Bread in Alliance.

From nearly the day we opened in November 2010 to every day we are open, we've received all of their unsold baked goods which works out to about 70 pounds a day and sometimes more. Last year we received 12,324 pounds.

Since all of their baked goods are made fresh each day, one of our volunteers stops in the morning to pick up what hadn't sold the day before. A member of Panera's team, including the general manager Stephanie Rippel, seen here, brings out the donations and helps load the pantry volunteer's car, who runs it down to the pantry.

Once there, a pantry volunteer sorts and re-bags the baked goods, as Cathy Brogan is doing here, and are passed out that day.

We thank Panera and we know our clients appreciate all the baked goods, including bread, a variety of pastry, and cookies.



SIMPLY GIVE AT MEIJER

Our partnership with the new Meijer store has been a huge success and it's only just begun. Meijer reported that the Spring Simply Give Campaign, which we've been a beneficiary of since they opened its Alliance store on May 14, resulted in our Pantry receiving \$8,280 to purchase food from Meijer for the Pantry to help feed our local families facing food insecurity.

Meijer's Spring Program ran through June 29, where shoppers pay \$10 for a Simply Give donation to the Pantry and Meijer will match it each time. Our Pantry's final Spring Simply Give total reflected generous contributions made by local Meijer customers, vendor partners, and Meijer's corporate

donations.

The wonderful thing is that Meijer has extended our Pantry's participation in the Simply Give program through Sept. 28.

Meijer's generous 2024 Spring Simply Give Campaign was a huge success resulting in more than \$3.6 million to help feed hungry families across the Midwest. Since its inception in 2008, Meijer's Simply Give program has resulted in more than \$95 million in donations.

Meijer says: "The purpose of the Simply Give program remains to support our local food pantry partners in feeding the growing number of hungry families in the communities we serve."



NEW BOARD MEMBER

Our Pantry Board welcomed a new member in July and said thank you and farewell to a loyal member who's been representing First Christian Church on our board for the past three years.

Kim Cully, who had been a volunteer for a couple years before Covid, is our new board member from First Christian. A Marlinton graduate and a recent retiree from the Buckeye State Credit Union, she and her husband, Doug, have two daughters, Abbey and Lauren, and two grandchildren.

Kim replaces Ivory Lyons who, after 24 years as a professor at the University of Mount Union, will be joining his wife, Barbara, in Mississippi for his retirement. He will be missed.



BOXES STILL NEEDED



A supply of 12x12x10 inch boxes became a necessity at our pantry when the Covid Pandemic hit, and we had to switch from in-store shopping to delivering food outside to clients to allow social distancing. In post-Covid days we have continued to deliver food to our clients outside but instead of using boxes we now bag up the food.

But we still need boxes to serve our DoorDash clients and we received a shipment recently from McElroy Packaging of Orrville that was unloaded and packed away by our warehouse volunteer Joe Cullum, seen here.

Our first shipment of boxes was June 10, 2020, and during Covid we'd need about 2,000 every three months. But we received 1,500 this week, and those should cover DoorDash for almost a year.

Since we started working with McElroy, we've ordered more than 31,000 boxes.

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, Cindy Magda, Chris Schade, Beth Simbro, Marge Simmons, Cathy Torma, John Whitehair

