



## LEGION GIFT

Since we opened 15 years ago, members of Alliance's American Legion Post 166 have been wonderful supporters of our pantry, and this year is no exception. Post Commander Ted Pase stopped at the pantry on Tuesday morning in early January and presented a \$5,000 check to new pantry board president Jim Perone.

Thank you, Legion Post!



## KIWANIS GIFTS



The spark for the founding of the Alliance Community Pantry came from a Kiwanis Club meeting in 2004 when Lisa Miller, then executive director of the Alliance of Churches, gave a program on hunger in Alliance. After hearing her details, Kiwanian Dave Puterbaugh and others got busy figuring out how to address the problem and, with the help of a few churches, businesses, organizations and many caring individuals, Kiwanis first developed monthly food giveaways before opening the Alliance pantry on Nov. 15, 2010.

Kiwanis continues its support, and last week Kiwanis board president Mel Rittner, right, presented a \$3,000 check to pantry president, Jim Perone. Continued backing from many sources has allowed the pantry to live up to its goal of "Working Within the Community to End Hunger."

## CEREAL SUPPLIER

Nancy Stoffer isn't listed or scheduled among our many volunteers, but you can often see her at the pantry and we're thrilled every time she stops in. Nancy, who has earned the nickname of "The Cereal Lady," is one of our most consistent donors.

Usually accompanied by her husband Ray, for the past three or four years Nancy has stopped in almost every Tuesday with nearly 100 boxes of a wide choice of cereal which she buys in area grocery stores where she can find the best deal. And she certainly makes the best use of coupons she collects.

In addition to cereal, Nancy also arrived with bags of candy that gets passed out to kids and those with a sweet tooth by Barb Carpenter and others delivering the food out front.

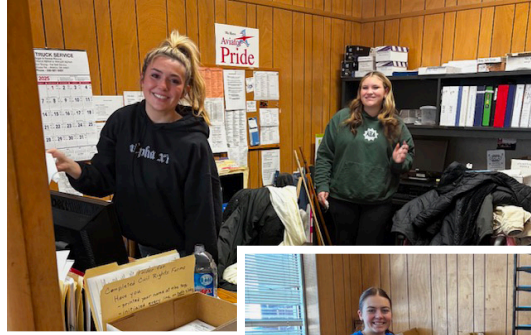
It's consistent supporters like Nancy and Ray who help us continue to live up to our motto, "Working within the community to end hunger."





# DAY OF SERVICE

Every January the pantry has had the privilege of welcoming Mount Union students who volunteer their time as part of their MLK Day of Service. On Jan. 20 they continued the tradition as a dozen students showed up and spent the morning cleaning, packing, organizing, and more cleaning of everything at the pantry. Thank you so much for all your hard work!



# PANTRY CONTINUES TO MEET NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

As the Alliance Community Pantry heads into its 15th year of serving the community, 2024 statistics clearly illustrate its numbers are quickly picking up to pre-Covid levels as more than one million pounds of food were given out last year.

Numbers dropped off clearly in 2021 after the Covid pandemic hit, but thanks to dedicated pantry volunteers who continued to help, major adjustments made for ways to serve clients, and non-stop support throughout the community, the pantry always kept an eye on its goal of "Working within the community to end hunger."

In 2024 the pantry was visited 13,985 times by 1,989 different households which housed 5,809 individuals. That is

797 more households and 2,302 more individuals that came to be served in 2021.

The pantry also served 575 new first-time clients last year.

The amount of food received and passed out in 2024 increased dramatically. Pantry clients went home with 1,126,109 pounds of food last year which included 1,045,919 purchased from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank which was picked up by volunteer truckers making 99 trips on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

The pantry also had 77,501 pounds of food donated from a variety of sources. Among those businesses who consistently donate weekly or more are Aldi, Panera Bread, Giant Eagle and Big Lots.



# SUPER SUPPORTERS

First Christian Church has been supportive of our pantry over the years in many ways, and this week was no exception.

Two busy church participants including Debbie Skubiak, left, who happens to be

our pantry manager, and Sue DeHoff gather up the 115 pounds of cleaning supplies and paper products to be donated. Our clients always appreciate these non-food products.



## FROM ALLIANCE COMMUNITY PANTRY BOARD

Jim Perone-Pres., Jim Greiner-Treas., Bruce Heisel-Past Pres, Mike Patterson-VP Operations, Chris Schade-Sec., Jan Horning, Missy Miller, Tim Morrison, Betsy Brown, Pat Gates, John Whitehair, Cindy Magda, Andy Magda, Beth Simbro, Marge Simmons, Kim Cully, Rudy Roggencamp, Cathy Torma

