



JAPANESE VOLUNTEERS

It was a busy and exciting place at the pantry Tuesday morning on April 1st as 14 students from Hiroshima, Japan, who have been visiting the University of Mount Union during the past week, came in and worked with our regular volunteers to help serve our clients.

Except for three years during the Covid pandemic, the students from Hiroshima Jogakuin Junior & Senior High School have been making the trip to Mount Union every year since 2010, and among their experiences has always been helping out at the pantry. They are not familiar with food pantries, but they always do a wonderful job.

The girls worked hard packing baked goods, sorting through and repacking a variety of packaged food, preparing and filling the baskets to be delivered outside to our clients, and helping load food into people's cars.

The students were chaperoned by Jogakuin teachers Florence Smith, who has made five trips to Mount Union, and Yukiko Hamaoka who was here last year for the



first time.

Helping document the experience were students from Alliance High School's media arts class taught by Chelsea Shar. Austin McIlvain and Zane Carlisle spent much of the morning filming activities and interviewing teacher Florence Smith, a Japanese student, and board president Jim Perone, who volunteers every Tuesday.

Volunteers and clients at the pantry look forward to their visit every year.



HEALTH FAIR

Our pantry was one of more than 20 agencies involved in Wednesday's Health & Wellness Fair at The Commons. Pantry board president Jim Perone and vice president Mike Patterson passed out information and answered questions of those who passed by all afternoon.

The event was hosted by Mount Union's Regula Center and was funded by a grant from the Alliance Health Foundation.

It was a nice opportunity to spread updated information about our pantry operations.



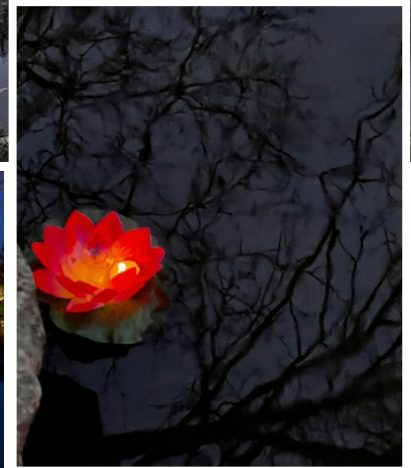
SHARING MEMORIES

A brisk early spring Friday evening welcomed those to the Mount Union Lakes who came to remember and honor those who have passed. The annual Light Up the Lakes event that started in 2013 is sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega who every year invite people to donate a canned food item or \$3 to receive a candle in memory of a loved one to float on the campus lakes. Raffle and 50/50 tickets also were sold.

With two years postponed because of the Covid pandemic, this was the 11th year for the event.

All proceeds have always been donated to our Alliance Pantry and Lukea Pitinii, APO vice president who organized the event, said \$2,077 was raised along with much food that will be delivered to the pantry.

We thank APO members for the many ways they support our pantry.



APO DELIVERS DONATED FOOD



Alpha Phi Omega's annual Light Up the Lakes event, which they started in 2013 as a memorial to those who have passed and a fundraiser for our food pantry, had one of its most successful years this month. Last Friday they brought in \$2,077 from those who wanted to light a candle on the Mount Union lakes in memory of a loved one, and Wednesday afternoon students delivered 399 pounds of canned and packaged food that had been donated that night.

Delivering the food to the pantry were APO president Kaylynn Thomas, Lukea Pitinii, who helped organize the event, and Ashley Cooper and Hannah Scott.

Helping unload and weigh the food was pantry volunteer Ed Daum.

GENEROUS GIFT

Lionel "Dowdy" Grimes, president of the Alliance High School class of 1968, continues to make an impact in the community 57 years after graduation.

As he first did in November 2021 and again in December 2022, Grimes selected our pantry as the recipient of a generous gift as a result of an unfortunate incident that occurred when he was in college in 1969.

Grimes was one of the Black 14 football players kicked off the University of Wyoming football team for wanting to protest treatment they received the previous year when they played Brigham Young University.

More than 50 years later, the Black 14 continue to advocate for racial equality by providing food and educational opportunities to underserved communities. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which changed its policy in 1978, has joined the effort, forming a partnership with the Black 14 to help distribute more than one million pounds of food across the country, including donations to our pantry, as selected by Grimes.

Early Monday morning, April 21, a semi-truck



arrived from Utah carrying 24 skids of food and cleaning supplies totaling more than 20,000 pounds for our pantry.

Our loyal volunteers, including Doug Brion on the forklift and Justin Lashley in the truck moving the skids, worked hard all morning unloading the truck, along with several volunteers working to make room in our warehouse.

It was certainly a team effort.



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