



MEIJER CONTINUES GENEROSITY

As they have since they opened a little more than a year ago, Alliance's Meijer store continues its generous support throughout the community.

All a customer has to do is grab a Meijer Simply Give \$10 donation card when checking out, and with Meijer matching it, \$20 will go to the pantry. The program started June 29 and will continue until Sept. 27.

Meijer has also designated Aug. 16 and Sept. 13 as double match days when \$30 will go to the pantry. Meijer will match up to \$5,000 in contributions in each double match day.

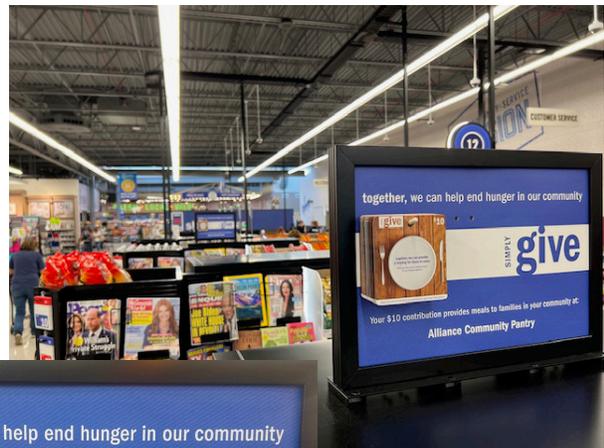
All donations will be converted into Meijer food-only gift cards which will be given to our pantry to help us stock our shelves with food that may not be available from the Akron-Canton Foodbank. Meijer's Simply Give program is designed to help feed hungry families in the communities they serve.

Our pantry was selected as the initial Simply Give recipient when Meijer opened in May 14, 2024, and was extended through September last year.

Last year our all-volunteer pantry was visited 13,985 times by 1,989 different households which housed 5,809 individuals, and they went

home with 1,126,109 pounds of food.

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.



BARB VISITS PANTRY



One of the founding organizers of our Alliance Community Pantry, Barbara Armitage, paid a visit to the pantry Tuesday, June 4, for the first time since October

2020, when she and her husband, John, moved to Santa Paula, Calif.

Her stop in Alliance was part of an eastern trip she took with her sisters and some old friends.

Barb had a good time running into old friends at the pantry including current board president, Jim Perone, on the left, and treasurer Jim Greiner, seen here with Barb.

The first spark for a community pantry began

when the Alliance Kiwanis Club heard a program on the hunger needs in Alliance in 2006 by Lisa Miller. For four years after that, Kiwanis held monthly food distributions when the Akron-Canton Foodbank would bring a truck load of food to town and volunteers and monthly sponsors would pass out bags of groceries to about 500 families on the last Friday, nine months a year.

Seeing the tremendous need, these monthly distributions led to the formation of the pantry by a small Kiwanis committee guided by Dave Puterbaugh, along with Barb, Matt Stinson, Betsy Cornell and Gloria Magrath.

The pantry opened for the first time Nov. 15, 2010, and has operated as an all-volunteer non-profit since then through broad based community support from churches, service organizations, corporations, businesses, schools, and individuals.

A month after the Pantry started, in December 2010, Barbara started coordinating and editing the pantry's monthly newsletter until handing over that job to board member Chris Schade in November 2023.

MARLINGTON DONATION

With the selection of food available from the Akron-Canton Foodbank occasionally facing challenging times these days, we received a welcome donation on June 3 of 749 pounds of food from Marlinton School's food service department. Among the generous donation was shelf-stable cans of spaghetti, Ramen noodles, macaroni & cheese, and hamburger buns.

In addition, pantry volunteer Aidan Kern, an Alliance High School student, shows off some of the 21 crates of milk – more than 1,000 half-pints – that were donated.



NEW YOUNG VOLUNTEERS



Our Pantry has been able to serve our clients since we opened 15 years ago thanks to our wide range of community backing. The financial support we receive and the thousands of pounds of food donated from businesses and individuals, have been key, but without our volunteers we couldn't operate.

We have more than 100 volunteers and joining our multi-talented team this week were four hard-working youngsters who were brought in by Alice Braisted, grandmother of one of the boys. Alice, who was joined by her friend AnnaMae Searfoss, said the boys are great friends and were looking for something to do this summer. She thought about volunteering at the pantry and were welcomed to join the Tuesday morning team for the summer.

The new young volunteers who plan to work through July, are seen here with Alice. They are, from left, Brady Floyd, Jonny Farrell, Micah Braisted and Mason Floyd.

PROTEIN SHAKES

A longtime pantry supporter who often drops off food donations stopped in one morning to bring in a variety of drinks. The woman who happily identified herself as One Eyed Christy, said, "I usually bring in food, but today I thought I'd get something nice that's fun and smooth."

She brought in healthy protein shakes, and reminded everyone that they require refrigeration. She also donated some soft drinks for our clients.

Thank you, Christy, for your continued support.



SHREDDING FOR FOOD



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church is a loyal supporter of our Alliance Pantry and one Saturday they lived up to their reputation. For the ninth straight year they offered a free shredding service for anyone, where participants were invited to bring in documents to be shredded in exchange for donations of non-perishable food, cleaning supplies or contribution to a free-will offering for the Pantry.

St. Paul's pastor, the Rev. Timothy Muse, is seen here organizing the food donations and also helping out was Ryan Marschinke. We thank St. Paul's for their continued support.

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

