



PANTRY VOLUNTEERS HONORED

Our Alliance Community Pantry was well represented Aug. 2 at the annual Greater Alliance Carnation Festival Community Luncheon as two longtime board members were among those receiving top recognition.

Betty Rush, received the Favazzo/Jeswald Founders Award, and Mike and Libby Patterson were honored with the 2025 Alliance Citizens of the Year award.

Both Betty and Mike had served on the pantry board since the pantry opened in 2010. Betty stepped down a couple of years ago and Mike continues as board vice president and head of operations.

The Favazzo/Jeswald Award, also known as the Carnation Festival Founders Award, is presented annually to an individual who has dedicated themselves to the success, planning, and well-being of the Greater Alliance Carnation Festival. The award was established in 1997 in memory of Ben Favazzo Sr. and Patrick Jeswald, who were instrumental in the festival's founding.

Prior to retirement



Betty worked with the Chamber of Commerce for more than 20 years.

Libby and Mike moved to town in 1972 where Mike worked for the Alliance Review and retired as editor in 2007, and Libby was an English teacher at Alliance High School and retired in 2011. They both have served on several committees and boards over the years.

The awards were given by a committee of Carnation Festival Board members.

SUMMER HELP

The average age of our Tuesday morning crew at the pantry took an impressive dip this summer thanks to the volunteer efforts of six good friends who were introduced to the pantry by Alice Braisted, grandmother of two of the boys, and her friend AnnaMae Searfoss.

Since early June, the friends have helped out every Tuesday morning with enthusiasm, moving items in the warehouse, repacking and sorting anything that needs organized, unloading donated food that's dropped off, and doing anything else that needs done.

With school starting, the Alliance City School students between the 5th and 8th grades, were done working for the summer, but are eager to come back next year. They will be missed!

Pictured here in pantry t-shirts made especially for them are, from left, Levi Braisted, Andrew Horning, Mason Floyd, Micah Braisted, Brady Floyd, and Jonny Ferral.



PARADE GENEROSITY



The generosity of Carnation Festival parade-goers, and the dedication of members of First Christian Church was once again evident during festival's Grand Parade.

As they have since our pantry opened 15 years ago, First Christian Church once again entered a float in the festival parade to collect food and money for the Alliance Community Pantry, and this year they collected \$800.40 and 90 pounds of food!

Seventeen church volunteers helped with the collections and the float which this year came home with the Chamber of Commerce Award.

We thank First Christian and all our other supporters who have helped us through the years.



SHREDDING DAY SUPPORT

Once again the Stark County Hunger Task Force and the Stark Federal Credit Union teamed up to support our pantry and helped area residents get rid of unwanted paperwork. The annual shredding day was Saturday, Aug. 1 at Stark Federal and we received donations of 52 pounds of food from those dropping off things to shred, and collected \$880, which will be used to fund the monthly

budgets of 26 pantries in the Task Force network. Task Force board member Theresa Donato coordinated the event, and helping people through

the process were Laura Beane, Samantha Spuhler, and Chris Newstetter. On hand to collect the food donations were Alliance Pantry volunteers Jim Perone and Rudy Roggencamp.

The event was organized by the Task Force executive director Stephanie Sweany. Events such as this certainly supports the Task Force's mission

of fighting hunger in Stark County by providing financial, logistic, strategic, and food support to their network of local food pantries.



A WELCOME VISIT

Three leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints came to our pantry on July 30 just to visit our pantry and to see how the food they had donated over the last few years had been distributed. They were visiting pantries to access the impact they were having on communities they support.

They had sent us a huge truckload of food this past April and previously on November 2021 and December 2022.

Church leader Wendy Simmons came from Cincinnati and Chad Furness and Jared Rounesville visited from Utah and were shown around by our pantry manager Debbie Skubiak. They said in 2024 the church donated \$1.7 billion pounds of food worldwide.

They got to know us because of Lionel "Dowdy"

Grimes, president of the Alliance High School class of 1968, who 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.

It was a joy to meet them and to show how we and our clients appreciated their generosity.



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

