



# Counting our Blessings Fall 2009

## A newsletter of the OLEAN FOOD PANTRY, Inc.

Volume 3 Issue 2

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### Food Drop-off Sites

8 Leo Moss Drive  
 Olean Public Library  
 Olean Teacher's Postal  
 Credit Union

## Cattaraugus Region Community Foundation Challenge

The Cattaraugus Region Community foundation is partnering with the Pantry to help us raise funds. The Foundation issued a "challenge grant" offering to match donations of 50 cents on the dollar with a maximum grant of \$1,000.

We have until December to collect donations that will be counted toward the grant.



## STAR SUPPPORTERS



Connections  
 Wal-Mart

BJ's  
 Fox Financial  
 Ron's Smoke Shop

Ried's Food Barn  
 Close Lumber  
 Home Depot

Cutco, Inc.  
 Olean Medical Group

### Challenge #2

We issued a challenge to our area churches to ask their member to collect peanut butter for one month. Since peanut butter is a good source of protein and well liked each client receives a jar. Trinity United Methodist Church initiated this challenge and so far has collected 450 jars. At this time 7 other churches have taken up our challenge.

**Great job Trinity United Methodist Church!!!**

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## What's Been Happening at The Pantry ?

Wednesdays for the past 5 months the Pantry was open for clients to receive fresh vegetables. We purchased a Canticle Farms share and received several donated shares. We also benefitted from the donations of gardeners, especially the weekly donation from an Eldred,PA. man.

Clients learned how to prepare new vegetables thru recipes given out or by talking with other clients.

**[www.oleanfoodpantry.org](http://www.oleanfoodpantry.org) our website has become a valuable tool for information about the Pantry. It has information about how to use the Pantry and how to find us. A Highlights Section tells about 2009 happenings. There is a recipe section using foods our clients receive. One section lists other agencies that could be of help. And PayPal can be used to make a donation. We have received several donations from other parts of the country.**

Our Numbers are growing. We have 734 clients. The newly unemployed are able to come 2 times a month until they receive their food stamps. We are able to do this because of a FEMA grant.

What did you as a teenager do for the summer? Seven teens worked at the Pantry this summer. One young lady came back for a second year and brought a friend.

Our waiting area has several more comfortable chairs that were donated by Dresser Rand, as well as some office equipment.

The floors in the warehouse were power-washed and painted.

We have a new back door that allows closer access to our storage shed.

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Through a grant from the Food Bank of WNY we received a new commercial freezer. Having this freezer means that we won't have to take our extra frozen food that we get off the monthly truck to the Service Store. Thank you to the Mahar Family and the staff of the Front Street Service Store for helping us out.

**Can't Use List** that became the **Can Use List**. In February we started having our clients check off, on a list, possible items that they would not use. We felt that this was giving our clients a chance to make a choice on the food that they received. Clients were telling us that they weren't using certain items or in food drives we would get back items we had given out. Each month the list is change based on what we food we have received.

After a few months we felt that we needed to change the name. Now clients check off those items that they would like to receive.

This list has proved to be favorable to our clients and ourselves. As of September 30th we have saved \$2,135 by not giving items not asked for.

*Thank you!!!!*      *Thank you!!!*      *Thank you!!!*

The Noisy Can Collection has grown to 3 churches having their youth, once a month, take up a collection in a can. The children love hearing the sound of the coins as they pass the can. Thank you to the youth, of Christ United Methodist Church, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church.

We are grateful to the individuals, stores, schools, businesses and organizations that have made donations this year. Because of you we are able to serve our clients.