

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS

Fall 2011

Our Mission Statement: As a volunteer organization the Olean Food Pantry provides food security by offering choices of healthy nutritious food. In cooperation with the community we empower individuals through education, resources, and knowledge to promote opportunities to become self-sufficient.

Our Vision Statement: Our vision is to be able to feed the community body, mind, and soul.

Board of Directors:

David Koebelin-President	Scott Brook-Vice-President
Pattie Barie-Secretary	Christie Brook-Treasurer
Charlene Granger	Cindy Hinz
Amy Maitland	Pastor Marie Meeks
Maureen Curry-Manager	Sue Clendenen-Asst. Manager

The Board made a decision to allow our customers to come to the Pantry twice a month. This was done for a 4 month period.

The Board has started to think about Long Range Planning for the Pantry.

Our Numbers

(Jan.- Nov. 2011)

644 Households made up of 522 Children 30 Infants
989 Adults 155 Seniors

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE PANTRY!!

- ***Bags..Bags..Bags:*** Enchanted Mountain Quilting held several cloth bag making workshop. Our customers enjoyed receiving and using these bags made of different materials.
- Five Star Bank donated 900 re-usable bags that are stamped with the Food Bank and Five Star Logos.
- Several times we have given a "surprise" of health care items to those who have brought back their reusable bag.
- ***Gone Computerized:*** Our intake procedures are now done on computer. We have done this for several months it takes less time for our clients to sign in. Using this Access program we can readily obtain data for reports and information for grants.
- ***Visitors:*** We have had visits by Food Bank of WNY personnel. Our first visit was by Marylou Borowiak, the new President. The second visit was by an employee and a Second Harvest Volunteer to check out how the Food Bank can better serve us. They commented on how clean and organized our pantry was. The last visitor was here for our annual inspection which we passed with flying colors.
- ***Website:*** Our site features information about how to obtain food, and how to make donations 3 ways. There are recipes. Donors are listed. Upcoming events are listed. And even recipes using items that we give out. Check it out at www.oleanfoodpantry.org.

- ***Plentiful Harvest:*** Fresh produce was plentiful this summer. It began with Slo-Food members creating raised beds for the gardens and planting them. We also used our swimming pools from last year. The crops were beans, cucumbers, potatoes and tomatoes. We had 50+ tomato plants donated by a West Seneca man. These veggies added to the Canticle Farms shares and Bockmier Farms weekly donation of corn & squash .Local gardeners also brought vegetables.
- ***Loyal Volunteers:*** Ben and Rose Schwabenbauer had volunteered for 20 years. Rose had served in several positions. Ben had been our President for 20 years. Ben is still volunteering as an Intake Worker.
- ***Young Volunteers:*** The youth of our community have helped in many ways. The Olean School District started the year off with the Souper Bowl, organized by Maria Skrobacz. They collected 5,995 non-perishable food items and \$2,500. An 8th Grade English class along with Dr. Taggerty created Easter baskets to be given to parents.
Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of Troop # 617 each held food drives.
- ***Educating our Customers:*** Lisa McHone of Cornell Cooperative Extension comes and shares recipes and samplings that have used items we give out.
Bev Bennett, Catt. County Health Dept. talks to our customers about health care issues.
A muffin making workshop by a volunteer using the church's kitchen was held.

We are thankful for all the individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses who help us to provide for those in need in our community.

WEBSITE: www.oleanfoodpantry.org

E-Mail: [www.olean food pantry@yahoo.com](mailto:www.oleanfoodpantry@yahoo.com)