

November 5, 2024

Volume 1, Issue 5



Food for Thought A Newsletter for Volunteers

We have a building!

After months of negotiation, we acquired our first choice in preference for a new building! Thanks to the hard work of our Building Committee and the generosity of our many donors, this is a major step toward a future vision for our pantry.

Plans for necessary renovations of the building are now being made. This includes removing some walls, refinishing floors, building out a commercial kitchen, and more!

If all goes well, we are hoping to move into the new facility in early spring,

2025. There is much to look forward to and we look to the future with gratitude and excitement!



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Learning and Giving

We were delighted to receive 100 pounds of produce from The St. John XXIII school in the summer and fall seasons.

Through their Gardening Elective course, students learn how to grow and nurture a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

Through their donations to

the food pantry, they also learn about the importance of caring for their neighbors who are less fortunate, and of providing fresh produce to those who otherwise may not be able to purchase these healthy foods.

We thank Mr. Adam Chilinski and his students for their

thoughtful generosity!



November Birthdays

- Randy Lanser, 1st**
- Steve DeMerit, 4th**
- Patrick Curtiss, 8th**
- Betty Olson, 13th**
- Mary Jo Bichler, 21st**
- Dale Blaubach, 23rd**
- Chuck Prendergast, 25th**
- Kurt Kleparski, 25th**
- Marcia Nosko, 25th**
- Terry Morgan, 26th**

Board Notes

- **Sandra Pessaro** is our newest board member. In her role she will act as our schools liaison. Sandra will be responsible for working with various schools in Ozaukee County and determining how they can support our pantry.
- Board members and supportive community groups continue to staff a tent at the weekly Port Washington Farmer's Market. This is to build awareness of our pantry in the community, and to take monetary donations.
- **Todd Korb** is the pantry's new marketing lead. He is currently working on website improvements.
- **Monica** is the pantry's new grant writer and foundation liaison.
- If you're planning any events for the pantry, please forward flyers or other out-bound communications to Steve Hansen for approval prior to publication. This is part of an effort to ensure the pantry's brand identity is consistent to the public. Steve is the final approver for now.

Food Drives, Fundraisers & Events

- **Moonlight Tavern** has partnered with Surly Brewing to bring a new house beer on tap: Anchor Point Lager. They will be donating \$1 from every beer sold to **The Food Pantry, Inc.** for the rest of the year!
- **The Steerage Dining Saloon** \$1 from featured gin specials will be donated to **The Food Pantry, Inc.**
- Target Circle Campaign—Please donate your points to our cause!
- The **Wisconsin Singer/Songwriter Series** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mequon-WI/Wisconsin-SingerSongwriter-Series/319175545297> is hosting a Food Pantry Benefit on Saturday, December 7th. Various artists will perform and there will be 'grab bag' gifts for those donating to The Food Pantry. This will be at the Unitarian Church—North, 13800 N. Port Washington Road, Mequon. Doors open at 7 p.m., music at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$20, day of \$24, and students \$12 always.



November 5th

- Hunger is Not Up for Debate food drive on election day. Ozaukee County food pantries are placing food collection barrels at polling sites. Locations have been split up between the 3 pantries.

Pantry Collaborations

- Family Sharing recently coordinated delivery of a large shipment of Doritos for our clients.
- Saukville Food Alliance channeled 36 cases of green beans to our pantry.
- Saukville Food Alliance staff sorted a semi load of baby items that were distributed to various agencies, in-



cluding our pantry. We picked up an assortment of diapers, wipes, baby food, and supplies for nursing mothers.

- Working with Saukville Food Alliance and Family Sharing on the Hunger is Not Up for Debate food drive. Thanks to Mark Gierach and his team at Saukville for leading this effort.

Volunteer Spotlight

Paula Davison

Paula works behind the scenes each week to prepare the contents of grocery bags that go out to clients. The bags contain shelf stable products. Paula thoughtfully reviews what the pantry has available and tries to coordinate items that complement each other, like pasta and sauce, peanut butter and jelly, or something to create a dessert item. This job can sometimes be challenging when inventory is low. Paula also coordinates with our food manager to inform her as to which products are low and need restocking.

Liz Busateri

Liz is our 'check-in' person. This is the first place clients need to stop before shopping at the pantry. Liz uses a barcode scanner to check clients into our software system. When clients are new, she coordinates with others to get them registered.. Liz also watches for clients with birthdays in order to distribute pre-prepared birthday gifts to them. Currently, Liz is making sure clients have an opportunity to sign up for Thanksgiving turkeys. Liz also serves as treasurer for the food pantry.

Shirley Groothousen

Shirley works in the product marking area. She and her team ensure that goods received have the correct 'best if used by' dates clearly marked on them. This helps them decide what can go into inventory, and what goes to the 'free' table, an area where foods that are expired or close to expiration. Clients are able to take whatever they want from that table, after reading the posted information about expired foods.

Notes & Suggestions

- Don't forget to update the calendar at the pantry if you will be gone from your normal volunteer slot. See Lorraine Halls if you have any questions.
- Our migrant worker food deliveries are now completed for the season



- The Salvation Army is a generous contributor to the pantry. We are bell ringing for them again this year.

Please see Scott Brost to sign up. Committed dates are Friday, November 15th, and Friday, December 6th. Thank you!

In Appreciation

Thanks to:

- The Port Washington High School Students who collected 1,906 pounds of food and \$162 in cash for us during Port Washington's trick-or-treat event. Thanks also to the crew who came in to mark and stock this large food shipment.
- The volunteer crew who helped shop for, pack, and deliver 40 boxes of food the Lakeside Foods migrant worker camp on October 30th.
- Saukville Food Alliance for their donation of proteins for our last migrant delivery of the season.
- The crews who have been picking up and sorting food on Fridays.
- Terry Morgan for taking over stocking and inventory duties
- Jim Langford and Scott and Joyce Brost for volunteering to place and pick up barrels for the 'Hunger is Not Up for Debate' food drive.

Thank you

The Food Pantry, Inc.



1800 N Wisconsin Street
Port Washington, WI 53074

Phone: 262-284-1148
Email: thefoodpantryinc@gmail.com
Web: thefoodpantryinc.com
Facebook: The Food Pantry, Inc.

Working together to alleviate hunger in our community by acquiring and distributing food to those who seek aid.

Our History

Serving all of Ozaukee County residents, as well as Random Lake in Southern Sheboygan County. We distribute to all faiths and are blessed for the donated space in the Saint John XXIII rectory basement since 1982.



Board Members

Steve Hansen, President
Jim Langford, Vice President
Jennifer Binninger-Gomez, Secretary
Liz Busateri, Treasurer
John Vallier, Churches
Tom Didier, Business/ Community
Brian Boettcher, Food Resources
Sandra Pessaro, Schools

Board Members Emeritus

Pat Curtis
Pat Kozak
Phil Groothousen

Food Pantry Operations

Marcia Nosko, Executive Director
Joyce Brost, Food Manager
Lorraine Halls, Volunteer Manager

Marketing

Todd Korb

Grant Writing & Foundation Liaison

Monica