

Food Pantry

Church of the Holy Spirit

The Church of the Holy Spirit's Food Pantry is non-denominational and open to the public for people of Cook County. Since it began in October 2004, it's estimated that nearly 34,000 visits to our Pantry have been made to this ministry for helping those in need.

Please suggest this Pantry to families that you know of who are in need of food support.

Each week, about 150 family guests – from Cook County namely Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates area – visit for food and dry goods provided by the Pantry. There are usually about 25 volunteers to serve them.

The CHS Pantry is in need of more volunteers to ensure that this very meaningful and most rewarding experience remains viable. This past year, a number of wonderful volunteers have left due to illness, family and work obligations.

Volunteers are from all over our area, various faiths, multiple organizations, all ages and all walks of life. Obviously, most of our volunteers are made up of retired people due to the times and days that we need volunteers. Every Wednesday from 10 am until noon and Thursdays from 10 am to 1 pm and/or 1 pm thru 5 pm is available for volunteers. Our Pantry is open every Thursday afternoon from 2-5 PM for guests. Our guests can use the Pantry once each month. Some other Pantries you may be aware of are: Schaumburg Township Pantry, Willow Creek Pantry, Trinity Church Pantry and Hanover Township Pantry.

Stop by and see how this all works, what you would like to do and how often you could help serve guests, stock shelves, bag groceries and other tasks as needed. Most of our volunteers fall in the 55 to 85 age group but age doesn't matter.

There are at least 20 Pantries located within a five mile radius of Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates. If a family is able to utilize five of these Pantries each month, they can help keep their families fed and nourished at least until something happens to help with their income. All that is required to use the Food Pantry once a month is a picture ID.

You can volunteer to work just a few hours a week or month or full time if you wish. Many of us are retired – some in their 80's. There are many and various types of jobs – many do not require great skills or strength. There are others that do require some patience – interfacing with others.

Every Wednesday between 10:00 AM & 12 PM: Volunteers are needed to help sort and pack dry goods in bags and boxes for distribution on Thursday afternoons.

Every Thursday afternoon, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM: food is delivered to us by the Greater Chicago Food Depository that needs to be unloaded, sorted and prepared for distribution from 2 PM til 5 PM. Join the volunteers who meet at 1:30 to get organized for the 2 o'clock family arrivals. The Pantry closes at 5 PM, followed by clean up & storage and you are on your way home by 5:30 PM at the latest.

A message from the CHS Food Pantry Director

“Thank you for all you do to make the food pantry a welcoming place for those in need. Many of the people that use the food pantry tell us that they not only appreciate the food that they are given, but the graciousness and kindness show to them.”

LaVerne Horgan

For more information about the Pantry, including that of volunteering, contact: Knight of Columbus Contact, George Palicki @ 847-843-8471 or LaVerne Horgan @ 847-843-2487.

In 2013, the Pantry was used 5,405 times at a very conservative estimated value of \$80 per use for a retail value of \$472,000. It was used by over 1,500 individual families. Some use it once a year, some only as needed and others every month. Eighty-five percent of the food distributed is purchased with Church of the Holy Spirit donations through the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) at or below cost. In 2013 the Pantry also received approximately 68,000 pounds (34 tons) of free USDA and FEMA commodities. The Pantry also participates in a food rescue program sponsored by the GCFD and received approximately 198,000 pounds (99 tons) of deli products, bakery and miscellaneous canned products at a cost of \$0.04/pound. The other 15% of food received is donated through monthly and quarterly food collections at Holy Spirit, St. Hubert, Boy Scouts, Council #6964 Knights of Columbus and other companies and organizations. The food pantry is run by 100% volunteers and 100% of the contributions are used to serve the people of the community of Cook County, Illinois.