

## **K of C Council #6964**

### **“Food Pantry Project”**

The Church of the Holy Spirit Food Pantry has been operating in Schaumburg, IL for approximately nine years. In 2013, the pantry was used 5,405 times at a very conservative estimated value of \$80 per use for a total retail value of \$472,000. It was used by over 1,500 individual families. Some used it once a year, some only as needed and others every month.

The 5,405 times used served over 25,000 people.

Eighty-five percent of the food distributed is purchased with Church of the Holy Spirit donations through the Greater Chicago Food Depository at or below cost. 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 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 and St. Hubert, food collections by the Boy Scouts, companies and organizations , i.e. – Council #6964 Knights of Columbus. In the first half of 2013 Council #6964 Knights of Columbus collected/donated over 600 pounds of food to the food pantry during one of the projects, “Food for Families Reimbursement Program”. Food was collected at the KC Christmas Party on Dec. 15 and given to the Food Pantry. Total amount was 175 pounds. We are having a Lenten Project called “40 cans for 40 days”. This project should generate at least 1,500 lbs. of food to be contributed by our Council and allow for a return of \$300 more to our Council from the Supreme Council.

KC Council #6964 gave the food pantry a \$500 cash donation on March 7, 2013. During this Knights of Columbus Fiscal year (July, 2012 – June, 2013) at least 14 Brother Knights and 7 Knights wives have donated over 3,000 hours of volunteer time working at the food pantry. During the period of July 1, 2013 until December 31, 2013, (10) Ten members of our Council volunteered over 1,000 man-hours of time working at the Food Pantry.

The food pantry is run by 100% volunteers. About 50 regular volunteers are the mainstay of the pantry; approximately 25 of them are Knights and/or Knights wives. There are another 25 to 30 occasional volunteers such as friends of our volunteers, high school and college students, confirmation candidates and community service workers. For that reason almost

every volunteer is Virtus certified because of working with youth. These people volunteered approximately 11,000 hours driving about 16,200 miles to do this.

You can see why the "Food Pantry" project is so worthwhile and that our Council #6964 plays a small part in helping the less fortunate in our community. We continuously ask for new volunteers in our Council to join in this worthwhile endeavor. The food pantry is under the direction of Sister Marianne Supan OP, Pastoral Associate at Church of the Holy Spirit and managed by LaVerne Hogan, Lay Volunteer for the past nine years.

As a footnote for this same period, Christmas gifts were distributed to 143 food pantry families with 349 children with a retail value of \$7,500. The gifts were donated by members of Church of the Holy Spirit and by KC Council #6964 children at the Children's KC Christmas Party that was held on Dec. 14. Thanks giving and Christmas dinners were distributed to 175 families in addition to the regular weekly food pantry contributions with a retail value of \$8,855 through a program coordinated by the food pantry with the local Jewel stores.

School supplies donated by Holy Spirit parishioners were given to at least 120 families with approximately 400 children with a retail value of at least \$5,000.

Miscellaneous household items and clothing with a minimum value of \$15,000 were made available to users of the food pantry each week.

Sincerely,

*George Paul Palicki*

George Paul Palicki, KC Council #6964 Project Food Pantry Coordinator

1/2/2014