

Annelle Delorme-Hagerman Food Pantry

At the Church of Our Saviour
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2011 Year End Report for Annual Parish Meeting

This was another very busy year for our Food Pantry. We thank God that we were able to provide food to 630 distinct families representing 1,671 individual guests. With the help of staff, parishioners, local businesses, churches, and organizations we received donations that allowed us to provide services to an increasing number of guests. We registered 215 new families in 2011, and our total guest attendance increased by 2%.

For the 3rd year in a row we averaged over 200 households each month, representing guests from 13 nearby communities from Tiverton to Taunton. For Thanksgiving we also gave away over 335 turkeys to our guests.

The list of people deserving thanks is huge. In reviewing the volunteer sign-in sheets we found that there were 204 different volunteers ranging in age from 5 to 88, who helped during 2011. The volunteer effort that supported the pantry is over 2,260 hours. Each month it took an average of 190 work-hours to register guests, sign them in for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) foods, walk guests through the pantry and help bring bags to their cars, sort and stock shelves, pick up food, repair and maintain our pantry, and other administrative duties. So, for each bi-monthly distribution, an average of 95 work-hours is involved. Our volunteers can spend as much or as little time as they want. Individual volunteer times varied from 1 hour up to 235 hours.

This year we registered our 1,847th household and our 5,1244th guest. Our guests came from 13 different cities or towns and represented at least 5 different ethnicities (No formal records of ethnicity are kept). The age range of the guests we provided food to was from infant to 95 years old with 23% being under 18 years old, 60% being between 18 and 64, and 17% being 65 years old or older.

The number of active guests fluctuated between 626 and 85. During November when we distributed turkeys, we served 357 different households representing 932 different guests.

We conservatively estimate that we picked up, sorted, stocked, and distributed about 73,000 pounds of food at an estimated value of over \$56,000. About 2,800 pounds of that amount was received during the Somerset and Swansea Postal Workers food drive and 4,230 pounds were donated by local Scouts. We are also the recipients of many food drives from local schools, churches, businesses, and organizations.

Thanks to food and monetary donations from our parishioners and the community; the tireless effort of our staff and many dedicated volunteers; and support from the Greater Boston Food Bank, we were very efficient in using our resources to provide food to our guests. In fact, it cost us an average of \$4.97 to provide several bags of food to a family each month. Between food, maintenance, supplies and utilities, our expenses this year were about \$12,152. With contributions from parishioners, individuals, organizations, churches, businesses, and grants, we took in about \$12,613.

Once again this year, our guests continued to enjoy the fine meals provided by Jeff Perry and his volunteers of the COOS Meal Ministry.

We are extremely grateful for all the Church of Our Saviour food pantry volunteers and parishioners who regularly support our efforts. We are also extremely thankful for the efforts of those folks in our community that support us with their time as well as monetary donations.

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact the Church at 508-678-9663 or George Paiva at 508-677-3825