

BREADCRUMBS

April 2008

The Newsletter of the Irving Park Community Food Pantry

Welcome to the first edition of Breadcrumbs. There are so many things going on at the Pantry that the Board of Directors decided we needed a way to communicate with our volunteers, benefactors and interested community members. The purpose of this newsletter is to focus on what it takes to get the food to the clients and the people who volunteer their time every week to get the job done. Kathy Howe and Barb Cohn are the co-directors of the pantry and are visible to the community through pantry outreach and education programs. But who are those people lugging and packing the food, interviewing the clients and providing coffee and pastries every week?

A second purpose of this newsletter is to let you know what is going on at the pantry behind the scenes. We'll keep you up to date on events of interest, policy changes, and the inner workings.

What's Coming Up

Saturday, April 26 – Wine tasting fundraiser - "Indulge your senses with an evening of fine wine and savory appetizers in a unique setting." Ummm – sounds good to me! 4433 N. Elston 6 – 9 p.m. Tickets are \$40 – see Barb for more information or call Jennifer at 773/844-9900

Saturday, June 14 – Hunger Walk - Walk or sponsor a walker. Registration forms will be available soon in the Pantry office or see a Pantry volunteer to sponsor a walker.

What's new

We have finally moved into our new office. It took a lot of effort and a lot of purging and organization, but we have settled into our new space in the back of the basement. It is larger and brighter and we have our own desks and a new internet connection and room to talk to clients and other visitors without being on top of each other. It took great cooperation from the church and we want to take this opportunity to thank Kent Keutzer, Lowell Allen and the Work Nitters as well as pastor Vicky for everything they did to get us into our space. It is wonderful.

DID You know...

Our pantry served 373 families, made up of 1,020 people in February? We handed out Easter baskets to 250 children in March.

WHO IS THAT GUY?

It takes a dedicated person to come to the pantry every week and do whatever is needed. At our Valentines Brunch in February, Bob Eisenhart was named 2007 Pantry Volunteer of the Year. We all know him as the quiet man who drives the pantry truck to deliver food to the homebound each month and who breaks down the boxes and fills in wherever he is needed. But who is that guy and how did he end up here?

When I asked him those questions, his answer was typical of his quiet humor: "I never volunteered." Of course, Pat volunteered him and he's been here ever since. And thank goodness for Pat! They are only one of our pantry "couples" but they have been a fixture at the pantry for many years. Their church (formerly Irving Park Presbyterian Church) and now Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church is one of the sponsoring churches.

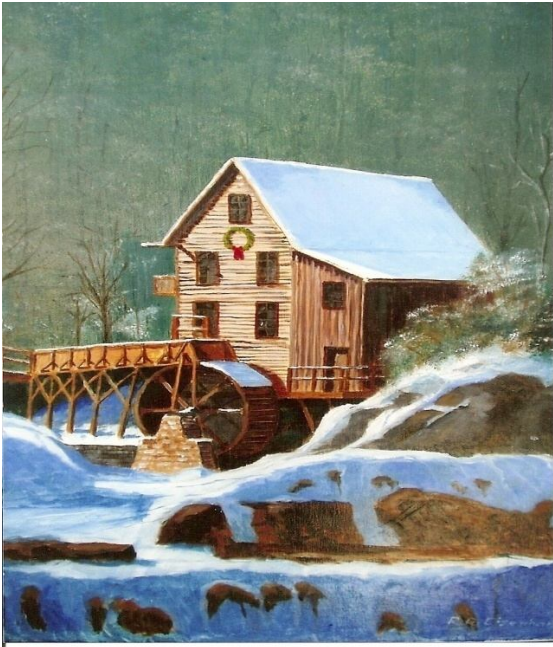


Bob is a Chicago boy who attended Haugen Elementary School and Roosevelt High School. He also studied for a short time at Wright College. He served our country in the army. Bob met Pat when they were 14 years old at a church youth group. They raised two daughters and two sons and have 10 grandchildren and two great-children to keep them busy. They have lived in the Old Irving Park neighborhood for 62 years.

Bob retired from his career as an architect in 1997 and has been filling his time since with travel, grandchildren

and painting. And not just any painting. He is very accomplished (see below). He is very active in his church (Carter Westminster United Presbyterian Church) and other activities, also for which he "never volunteered."

So now you know.



Bob Eisenhart painting

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Sometimes on Wednesday we see fresh produce coming in our doors. Did you ever wonder where it comes from?

The Greater Chicago Food Depository has a "produce mobile" which delivers fresh produce to pantries across the city once a month. We get ours on a Wednesday so that's why we are sometimes overflowing with produce one week and have very little other weeks.

Also, the Antihunger Federation gives us food, mostly produce, which Jim or Rick pick up twice a month.

Board of directors

You may have wondered who exactly is on the Board of Directors of the Pantry. Here's the scoop:

President – Pat Eisenhart

Vice President – Beanie Peterson

Secretary – Vicci Rogers

Treasurer – Nora Byrne

Barb Cohn, Kathy Howe, Carol Schultz, Marianne Turk, Lois Schill, Peggy Calderon, Bob Rommel, Alfreda Rommel, Sharon Iverson, Kate Roche and Mike Metti are the other members of the Board.

Meetings are held the first Monday of the month at the church.

CONGRATULATIONS !

Most of you know that Kathy Howe was in China for the last month, "supervising" the birth of her new grandson and being grandma to Michaela.

Her new grandson's name is Leonard Jonathan Kruse, to be called Jonathan. He weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces. I thought you all might be interested to know how he got his name:

"You have been give the name Leonard after your grandfather Leonard Lawrence Kruse because of his faithfulness to the Lord, his never ending patience and his kind and helpful nature. You have been given the name Jonathan after your grandfather John Patrick Howe because of his hardworking character, his unceasing ability to listen, and his generous and self-sacrificial nature."

Kathy's daughter and family are living in China while her son-in-law works for a Swedish company that manufactures heating elements.



Mom Kate with Michaela and Jonathan

contact us

If you are interested in contributing to this newsletter or need more information, you can contact Carol Schultz at schultzfamily02@aol.com or the Pantry at irvpkfoodpantry@aol.com.