

Community and our Food Pantry

There is an old saying: You only reach God by serving others. Going out of your way for perfect strangers. I remember when I was in my 20's thinking I would enjoy volunteering but wasn't sure of anything that I could do to make much of an impact on someone's life. I didn't realize how little some people had. Or the small things that I could do that would brighten someones day.

I didn't realize that a small group of people dedicated to a cause could make such a difference with not just a persons life but with a community. Volunteering is about helping others but it is also about feeding your soul. Our Food Pantry is here to distribute food to people in need each month. But even more than that, we offer our community the opportunity to come together and give of themselves,

Giving people that opportunity to make a difference. Troop 66 Boy scouts set up our tables in the hall each month and the leaders and a few scouts come on pantry night. The scouts hand out food. The leaders help the elderly out to there cars with their goods. Our middle school has done two foods drives for us. The Catholics at Sacred Heart church have applied for grants for the pantry and the Episcopalians at Holy Trinity in Enfield has someone who is a coupon queen and uses her talents to purchase shampoo toilet paper and other items. Once she has 100 bags filled they bring them over to hand out on Pantry night. Every other Tuesdays the Foodshare truck is here and is manned by many from Sacred Heart church. Those volunteers are now coming to help at Pantry night as well. They belong to the

community. They put energy into making the place they live a better place to be for all.

A community is so much more than just a group of people living in a particular area. It is a group of people that we lean on when times are tough.

For our third anniversary our pantry has started a "Giving Tree" which will be located in Fellowship Hall. We will place tags for two or three items which we will be collecting until we receive 100 of them and then we will hand them out at on our Pantry night .

The items will be ones that we are not able to purchase from Foodshare and Patrons are unable to receive with Food Stamps, The tree is located in the hall to invite every group that uses our hall to be able to help someone in need.

There is a prayer for volunteers that I would like to read

**"I thank Thee, Lord as a volunteer
For the chance to serve another year.
And to give of myself in some small way,
To those not blessed as I each day.**

**My thanks for health and mind and soul,
To aid me ever toward my goal.
For eyes to see the good in all,
A hand to extend before a fall.
For legs to go where the need is great,
Learning to love—forgetting to hate.
For ears to hear and heart to care,**

**When someone's cross is hard to bear.
A smile to show my affection true,
With energy aplenty—the task to do.**

**And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,
Is to serve you better day by day**