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*Hunger shouldn't be an option*

## Happy Thanksgiving

In October's newsletter we noted that the community donated more than 4,000 pounds of kosher food through recent drives. The exciting news is that, as collections continued, the total reached more than 7,000 pounds. Though this sounds like - and is - a lot of food, all 7,000 pounds will be distributed by the end of 2009 to our neighbors who are struggling to get by and rely on the Squirrel Hill Food Pantry for help.

Without your kosher food donations, financial contributions and time volunteered all year round, we truly could not help the hungry individuals and families in our neighborhood. As Thanksgiving nears, know that we are thankful for you and our other Pantry supporters throughout the community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for all that you have done and will continue to do.

If you'd like to organize a special Thanksgiving or winter holidays food drive with your family, organization or business, please contact us at the Pantry.

## Special events provide much-needed funds for the Pantry

Norman Kanel, Rodef Shalom Brotherhood and the East Winds Symphonic Band have done it again! The annual Music with a Mission Pantry benefit concert on November 8th was a resounding success. More than \$450 was collected in addition to the many nonperishable, kosher foods donated by attendees. Thank you to all who came out to support the hungry in our community on that gorgeous Sunday afternoon.

Another friend of the Pantry also is planning a fundraising event for us. For the second year in a row, a local consultant from The Pampered Chef will host a cooking & product show, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Pantry. This year's event will be on Wednesday, November 18th from 5:30-7:00pm at the Pantry.

We will taste seasonal recipes and demo cooking and entertaining products. All orders should arrive in time for Hanukkah and Christmas. Feel free to invite your family, friends and coworkers - we'll see you there!

November 2009

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## Donating to the Pantry

If you'd like to donate to the Pantry, you can do so online via our [virtual food drive](#), [annual campaign](#) or [tribute fund](#) in honor or memory of someone special. To host a traditional kosher food drive using one of our yellow collection barrels, please [contact us](#) for more information.

**What do we need this month? The November Foods of the Month are kosher canned green beans, sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce.**



*Photo courtesy of vieux bandit/Creative Commons.*

Remember the Pantry when you're doing your holiday meal shopping and spot a ""Buy one, get one free" - consider keeping one for yourself and donating the other!

As with all donations to the Pantry, please check that donated food is kosher and marked with one of the following symbols:



Another way to donate to the Pantry is through our *Centerpieces for Tzedakah* program. You can rent our food baskets in lieu of flowers as celebration centerpieces and bimah baskets, and your tax-deductible donation helps to feed individuals and families that rely on the Pantry. The baskets are decorated with beautiful bows in the colors of your choice, and each has a card attached acknowledging your support. Some *Centerpieces for Tzedakah* patrons supply their own bows or have their baskets decorated by florists or other party professionals. It's an easy, meaningful way to add significance to your special occasion. [Contact us](#) for more information or to place an order.

## Volunteer at a Sunday packing

On two Sundays every month, Pantry volunteers pack more than 400 bags of nonperishable food and fresh produce. Sunday packings take place from 9:00 - 10:30am and are a great service project for individuals, families and groups.

While pre-scheduling is recommended, if you find some last-minute time on a Sunday packing day, we won't turn you away! To learn more or reserve your space please [contact us](#).

Note that spaces for groups fill quickly, and for this reason we ask that you schedule your group at least one month in advance.

### Upcoming Sunday packings with open spaces:

November 22nd

December 6th

December 20th

## Other Pantry volunteer opportunities

Can't make a Sunday packing but still seeking a hands-on volunteer project?

Come join is as we unload a delivery truck for the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Our monthly deliveries include 8,000 pounds of kosher food, but don't worry! We unload it just a few pounds at a time. If you're able to help us lift\* and sort Wednesday, November 18th at 9:00am or Wednesday, December 16th at 9:00am, please [contact us](#) to reserve your space.

*\*Volunteers should be able to lift and carry up to 40 pounds multiple times.*

The Pantry also needs volunteers with vehicles for two activities: food drive pickups and recycling drop offs. Several area schools, congregations and organizations accept kosher food donations. The Pantry needs volunteers to empty our yellow collection barrels and deliver the food to our distribution center on Forward Avenue. We also need volunteers to take bottles, cans, cardboard and paper from our distribution center to a recycling center. To learn more about either of these opportunities [contact us](#).

On another note: JF&CS's refugee resettlement program is looking for volunteers to help prepare apartments for new refugees before their arrival. Duties include stocking kitchen cabinets, organizing linens, arranging furniture and more. It's a great way to help new Americans feel welcome even on their first night in Pittsburgh. To learn more about this opportunity contact refugee services director [Leslie Aizenman](#) at 412-904-5976.

### Pantry Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9:00am - 12:30pm

Friday 9:00am - 11:30am

2 Sundays a month 11:00am - 1:00pm

*Please contact the Pantry at  
412-421-2708  
for appointments outside of the normal business hours.*

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