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Pantry thriving in its new location

The SHCFP has been in our new home at 828 Hazelwood Avenue for just over 7 months. The time has gone by so quickly and our new Pantry is such a great fit that some days it is hard to remember what it was like when we just packed and handed out bags to our program recipients. The staff and volunteers continue to receive positive feedback about the new model where you come to "shop" for your food choices. According to long-time volunteer Mimi Halpern, "It gives people a sense of independence and pride... nobody feels ashamed that they're in this position. It's a beautiful thing."

The program has seen tremendous growth in the number of people we are serving at the new SHFCP. Since November 1, 2010, we have enrolled 395 new individuals that represent 165 households and families. An increase in people served also brings an increase in the amount of food we are distributing to help our community. The SHCFP is averaging more than 18,600 pounds of food each month or 24 pounds of food per person in a household. We are on track to distribute more than 200,000 pounds of food this fiscal year that ends on June 30th. That will be a 24% increase in the amount of food going to the homes of people who are in need of food assistance in the community.

Our volunteers are still the heart and soul of our Pantry operations. Without all of our hard working, selfless volunteers, the client shopping model at the Pantry would be just a dream. We have welcomed 107 new volunteers into our program that work side by side with our more than 350 seasoned volunteers.

And we can't forget to recognize our donors that provide the contributions that help keep the food on the shelves, the lights on in the Pantry and the staff at our desks. With their help, we are able to serve more than 1,200 people who come to the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry for help feeding themselves and their families.

Thank you for a great first seven months everyone!

Pantry receives MAZON Grant

The Pantry recently received a grant from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a national, nonprofit agency that allocates donations from the Jewish community to prevent and alleviate hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds.

The grant will help cover the costs of our full-time, on-site licensed clinical social worker. While hunger affects more and more people

June 2011

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SOS Video Debuts



At the Jewish Family & Children's Service Annual Meeting on May 19, we debuted a video about the SOS Pittsburgh critical needs and emergency assistance program. SOS Pittsburgh is a program of JF&CS and is administered by the SHCFP. It was established in 2005 with the help of Sandy and Edgar Snyder. Modeled on a similar program the Snyders had established in the former Soviet Union, SOS Pittsburgh provides a safety net of last resort for individuals and families who are struggling and have nowhere else to turn. [Click here](#) to view the video.

For every \$18 you donate, the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry can purchase \$72 of food for clients.

every year, lack of food is only a small part of the larger issue. Having a social worker on-site ensures that we can help clients to address the issues underlying their food insecurity and provide the appropriate case management, referral and resource coordination they need.

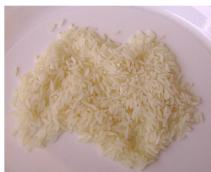
MAZON granted more than \$4 million in 2010 to more than 300 carefully screened hunger relief agencies. MAZON is supported by more than 100,000 donors, including 1,500 Partner Synagogues, who incorporate social justice and hunger relief as crucial components of their everyday lives.

Best wishes to a mentor from SHCFP director Becky Abrams

Joyce Rothermel will retire on June 30th after 30 years of leading the fight against hunger at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Her work has touched many people's lives including my own. As a college intern in 1993, I took on a challenge to learn more about the issues of hunger facing my neighbors in the Mon Valley through interviewing more than 600 recipients at food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens. This experience touched me so deeply that I decided to study social work and obtain my MSW. I worked at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank before coming to JF&CS as the Director of the SHCFP five years ago. Today, I say congratulations and thank you to Joyce, a leader who helped show me that one person can make a difference and touch so many lives.

Donating to the Pantry

What do we need this month? The June Foods of the Month are pasta and rice. We're also looking for extra donations of tuna and canned cereal! You can drop donations off at the Pantry, or place them in the yellow donation baskets at the following synagogues: Tree of Life Or L'Simcha, Rodef Shalom, Temple Sinai, Adat Shalom, Beth Shalom, Shaare Torah and the Anathan Club.

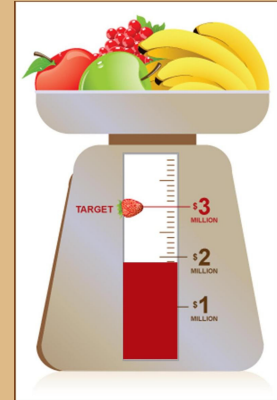


Remember the Pantry when you're doing your shopping and spot a "Buy one, get one free" - consider keeping one for your family and donating the other! Not sure what foods the Pantry needs? Refer to our [Pantry Shopping List](#).

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.



**Endowment Campaign
at \$1.9 million and
growing!**



Create a legacy to end hunger in our community. Establish an endowment or make a charitable bequest to help ensure we can continue to provide food and supportive services to our community's most vulnerable. Contact [Barry Rude!](#), our development officer, at 412.422.7200 for more information.



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**Squirrel Hill Community
Food Pantry**



Would you like to know
what's happening at
the Pantry's parent
organization, [JF&CS](#)?

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JF&CS news
delivered weekly to your
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Calling all volunteers

Individual volunteers, schools and community groups are vital parts of our Pantry's operation. Prior training is not required for most volunteer opportunities. We just are looking for committed and enthusiastic individuals, who have some free time and want to help. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Since many of the duties require multiple people, this is a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your family, friends or religious group, for example, while providing an essential service to our community's most vulnerable.

While many of our volunteer spots are filled through July, we are currently looking for volunteers for **drop-off recycling** - volunteers with valid driver's licenses to recycle our cardboard boxes (2-3 volunteers weekly). Any volunteers would be a huge help!

Pantry Hours

Monday: 9:00am - 12:30pm (and 5:00 - 7:00pm by appointment only)

Tuesday: 9:00am - 12:30pm and 1:30 - 3:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am - 12:30pm and 1:30 - 3:00pm

Friday: 9:00am - 12:30pm

One Sunday a month by appointment only

Please contact the Pantry at

412-421-2708

for appointments outside of the normal business hours.

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