

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



SHCFP Celebrates First Anniversary in Our New Location!

And what a year it has been! We served a record number 1,320 unduplicated people, distributing more than 231 thousand pounds of food.

As those of you who have been volunteering with us for some time know, when we moved into our Hazelwood Avenue location, we were so excited to have the space to implement our current client-choice food pantry model.

The client-choice model provides clients the dignity of choosing for themselves the food they will receive and consume. It's better for the client, but also for SHCFP resources due to the elimination of unnecessary wasting of food (the traditional model of pre-selected food items oftentimes include items a client and his or her family neither want nor can consume due to dietary restrictions or preparatory limitations).

The evidence is clear in the jump in reported client satisfaction and the reduced number of pounds of food distributed per person.

But that's only two benefits of our new space: While we still hold packings for delivery to our homebound clients, our new Pantry also provides many more opportunities for you, our valued volunteers, to engage directly with our clients. Many more volunteers now come on a regular basis (before we utilized a lot of large, one-time groups to staff the Sunday packings) and the average hours per volunteer has increased substantially.

Although it's been a challenge to get ourselves settled in our new space, working under a new model and serving the increased number of individuals and families that turned to SHCFP for help feeding themselves and their families over the past twelve months, with your help, the past year has been a resounding success.

When we say "we couldn't have done it without you" we absolutely mean it...literally. You, our precious volunteers, have given more than 3,500 hours to help those who are struggling. The three of us couldn't possibly have done it without you!

Becky Abrams
Director

Claire Burbea
Social Service/
Critical Needs
Coordinator

Tanya Bielski-Braham
Coordinator

November 2011

In This Issue

[SHCFP Celebrates First Anniversary in Our New Location!](#)

[High Holiday Giving](#)

[Music with a Mission](#)

[Thanks to Our New Partners](#)

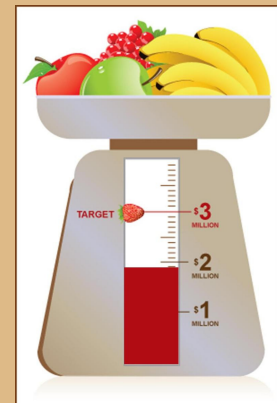
[Donating to the Pantry](#)

[Calling all volunteers](#)

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

Donate Now
Secure donations through
Network for Good

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

High Holiday Giving

We are incredibly thankful to local congregations and their rabbis for participating in food drives during the high holidays. Together eight congregations collected 5,788 pounds of food for the SHCFP! Many heartfelt thanks to Adat Shalom, Beth El, Beth Shalom, Parkway Jewish Center, Rodef Shalom, Temple David, Temple Sinai and Temple B'Nai Israel.

With Thanksgiving quickly approaching, your help is needed even more! Traditional holiday foods and specialty items are expensive and can put a burden on families who want to celebrate appropriately but may not have the means to do so. You can help in several ways, from donating special holiday-specific foods to the Pantry, by giving a financial gift or by volunteering your time.

Music with a Mission

With a standing-room only crowd, Rodef Shalom Brotherhood hosted another successful *Music with a Mission* concert on November 6 to benefit the SHCFP. In addition to monetary donations, 665 pounds of food were donated by attendees! This year marks the 30th anniversary season for East Winds Symphonic Band, who played 14 selections, including the world premier of "Parkour," a piece commissioned for the band's 30th Anniversary. Samuel R. Hazo was the composer. Special thanks to long-time SHCFP volunteer Norm Kanel for all of his hard work and dedication in bringing another great afternoon of music to help the SHCFP. Thanks to Rodef Shalom Brotherhood for their continued support of the SHCFP through *Music with a Mission* and the many ways they support the Pantry year round.

Thanks to Our New Partners

- Greenfield Elementary autistic support class who volunteer weekly during the school year
- Penn State Cooperative Extension which provide nutrition education classes and resources for our clients
- Pier 1 which holds holiday toy drives to benefit Pantry families with children
- Banana Republic, whose staff volunteer and hold food drives for us
- Costco and Gluteny, our newest retail donors

Donating to the Pantry

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

vulnerable. Contact [Barry Rudel](#), our development officer, at 412.422.7200 for more information.



Become our fan on Facebook.

[Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry](#)



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

[Signup for our brief newsletter](#) and get JF&CS news delivered weekly to your inbox.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

also need extra donations of non-food products, such as shampoo, dishwashing soap and paper products! You can drop donations off at the Pantry or place them in the yellow donation baskets at the following locations: 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.



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. You only need to be 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 group while providing an essential service to our community's most vulnerable.

Many of our volunteer spots are filled through August, but we are currently in need of volunteers for **drop-off recycling** - volunteers with valid driver's licenses to deliver our numerous cardboard boxes to the recycling facility (2-3 volunteers weekly). We also need volunteers with valid driver's licenses to **pick up bread donations** Monday through Friday mornings from Giant Eagle. 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.

[Forward email](#)



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to ldaly@jfcspgh.org by info@jfcspgh.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry | 828 Hazelwood Avenue | Pittsburgh | PA | 15217