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Hunger Shouldn't Be an Option



Generosity through the Holiday Season

The Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry is grateful for all of the donations of money, food and toys that came our way in the last months of 2011. Local businesses, organizations and individuals all pitched in to make it a memorable holiday for our clients and their families:

- Pennsylvania State Senator Jay Costa donated 20 large turkeys for distribution before the Thanksgiving holiday. The turkeys were a joyful addition to the Pantry clients' shopping carts!
- The staff of JF&CS came through with a generous donation of more than \$400 at our recent Chanukah party. The money was raised as part of a gold sale where Marc Fine of Fine's Precious Metals purchased unwanted or broken jewelry from staff members and in turn donated 15 percent of those sales back to the Pantry.
- Our friends at Animal Friends donated a whopping 745 pounds of Chow Wagon pet food for our Pantry clients' beloved feline and canine friends. Thanks so much!



- Hillel Jewish University Center generously donated more than 100 toys -- everything from Candy Land board games to Lego sets -- for our annual toy drive. Rodef Shalom Congregation, the JCC South Hills and Hillel Academy also collected toys for us. The toys really made for a happy December for the Pantry's smallest clients.

January 2012

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

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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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- The Manor Theater in Squirrel Hill continues their food drive. A yellow food barrel sits inside the theater by the popcorn counter and encourages cinema lovers to donate canned goods before the start of their movie.
- Forbes Residence Hall at the University of Pittsburgh orchestrated a massive food drive. The college coeds donated more than 375 pounds of canned goods.
- Chabad House at the University of Pittsburgh, together with AEPi fraternity, arranged the second annual Canorah display in the William Pitt Student Union. Students raised funds to purchase 300 industrial-sized cans of food they used to construct a menorah, and then donated their can struction menorah to the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry at Chanukah's end.



- Cantor Ben Rosner and Congregation Beth Shalom hosted an "Adult Shul of Rock" at the Dunkin' Donuts in Squirrel Hill on December 24. More than 70 people attended the event over the course of the night and 10 performers participated in this open-mic extravaganza. The event raised more than 25 pounds of food and \$120.

2011 Year in Review

The Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry served 1,255 individuals in just under 600 households in 2011 and distributed an impressive 238,827 pounds of food during that time. (For comparison, last year, we served 1,083 individuals in 522 households and distributed 181,635 pounds of food). In addition, we served 29 households with emergency food assistance.

More than 250,000 pounds of food was received in 2011 and of that nearly 48,000 pounds was from our generous friends at Giant Eagle, Costco and Sweet Tammy's, to name a few.

We, of course, could not do any of this without the gracious help of our volunteers. In 2011 we had 661 volunteers; more than 200 of those were new to volunteering with us. Together they donated 3,781.75 hours working at the Pantry, stocking shelves, shopping with clients and sorting food donations.

And not to be forgotten, we are so thankful for an amazing

JF&CS news
delivered weekly to your
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response from more than 800 generous individuals and companies.

2012 Food of the Month Calendars

As we mentioned last month, we recently launched a new gluten-free section for our clients who have intolerance to wheat gluten, such as celiac disease. This section has been immensely popular with our clients and we hope to make the section bigger and better in 2012.

In addition to our regular [Food of the Month calendar](#), we also will now have available a [Gluten-free Food of the Month calendar](#). Print or view these calendars and the [Pantry shopping list](#) before your next trip to the grocery store and toss a few additional things in your cart to donate to the Pantry. Have your kids help to shop using the Pantry shopping list as an educational opportunity to learn about hunger in our community.

Our Apologies

If you contacted us via info@sqfoodpantry.org and did not hear back from us, we are sincerely sorry and hope you will re-contact us if appropriate. We recently learned of technical difficulties with that e-mail address and messages directed to that address during that period were not received. Thankfully, the problem has been corrected. Thank you for understanding.

Donating to the Pantry

What do we need this month? The January Food of the Month is peanut butter. The Gluten-free Food of the Month is soup. We 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.

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