



## Welcome to the ninth issue of The Pantry Window



### Happy New Year!

The Food Pantry halls are decked (not with the green of Christmas trees and wreaths) but piled-high with big brown banana boxes, you, our generous supporters, collected and brought to us this holiday season. The Pantry will be celebrating 25 years of service to the community this April. In all my years of being here, which we believe is 24, (record keeping was at a minimum way back then), I have never, ever, seen so much food coming in. We were overwhelmed to say the least; and believe me, that's a good problem for the Food Pantry.

There is a whole lot more food to give out to the increased number of those who need it most!

Many who came with food, checks or cash or all of the above, didn't leave a name for a written thank you. That is so humbling to us. Our hearts swell with the gratitude of Thanksgiving and the joy that comes with the knowledge that all who sought help were helped. No one was turned away! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Pat Adams*, Director

## Paul "I Can" Brooks



Paul has been a volunteer at the Food Pantry since January of 2010. He picks up bread at Johnnie's on Tuesdays and backs up the other volunteers who do bread pickups when needed. Paul, not only sorts cans, but he also stocks shelves, fills grocery orders for clients, and helps unload donations as they come in; the list goes on and on... It is Paul's "I Can" attitude that makes him so special. Paul told us that we have him for 4 hours every Tuesday and Thursday, and he is here to do whatever it is we need – no matter! That is indeed an "I Can" attitude and one that is greatly appreciated and reflected in Weymouth Food Pantry volunteers!

Paul, along with our other friends here at the Pantry and in our community, transforms us into a "We Can" Pantry!!! Thank you, Paul!

In late December, John Boucher, President of **South Shore Savings Bank Charitable Foundation** visited the Food Pantry and, once again, presented the Foundation's check for \$5,000 to Anne Mates (Assistant Director), Pat Adams (Director), and Gael Sullivan (Fundraising Chairperson). This donation is specifically intended to match the first \$5,000 raised in the Pantry's upcoming "**Heart to Heart**" Valentine fundraiser. Watch your mailbox around Valentine's Day to have your donation doubled!



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**Heart to Heart  
2012**

February marks our annual Valentine themed fundraiser. Watch your snail-mail mailbox or click on Heart2Heart on our website for details.

**"For the price of a box of chocolates, you can feed a family."**

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**Food Pantry Service Demand Increases** On a full year basis, we served 6,119 families in 2011 versus 5,703 served in 2010, an increase of 7.3%. However, the last three months of 2011 (October through December) are particularly telling: The number of families we served increased 18.3% compared to the same period last year, and the number of individuals served increased 23.9% in that same three month period. In the last three months of 2011, we provided emergency food for 4,479 individuals and 1,605 families.



United Way of Massachusetts Bay and Merrimack Valley's 14th Annual Thanksgiving Project to feed 5,000 families throughout the region, Kory Eng, Assistant Vice President, Community Impact and a group of United Way volunteers came to the Food Pantry on Saturday, November 19th to pass out Thanksgiving baskets to the Food Pantry's larger client families.

Each basket typically contained the following donated products: cranberry sauce, a box of stuffing, two cans of mixed vegetables, two cans of beans, three pounds of rice, a jar of gravy, two pounds of onions, five pounds of potatoes, and an aluminum turkey pan as well as a gift card for the purchase of a turkey.

**Thanksgiving Notes:**

We're happy to report that all client families were offered the makings of a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. As a part of

**Rotary Food Drive**



In October, Weymouth Rotarians collected food from shoppers outside the Weymouth Shaw's and Johnnie's Supermarkets. Customers were given a flyer with a list of much needed items upon entering the store. They responded in a big way when they left the stores donating 95 banana boxes full of food as well as \$567.



The Rotary annual food drive is second in size only to the Annual Letter Carriers Drive.

**Trick or Treat**

Olivia Pietruszewski trick or treated in her Federal Street and Apple Tree Lane neighborhood collecting canned food and non-perishables instead of candy for the Food Pantry. Her cousin Michael Morris helped with the collection. This was Olivia's second year "Trick or Treating" for the Food Pantry!



In a food drive of just eleven days from 11/1/11 to 11/11/11, **Old South Union Church** collected over 8,000 food items. It took several vehicles and several trips to bring it all to the Pantry. The collection was Old South's participation in Mission 1 Campaign, in which the church as a whole pledged to collect over one million healthy food items and household goods for local food banks and pantries as well as outreach services nationwide

Old South gave up the use of their chapel for two weeks to store the donations while space was made for it at the Pantry



Roberta Shanahan, history teacher at Chapman Middle School, walked with her class to the Food Pantry with a Thanksgiving collection of food. Pictured with **Mrs. Shanahan's class** are Food Pantry volunteers, Harvey Welch and Brian Shanahan, (Roberta's Brother-in-Law.)



**Operating Hours:**  
 Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am - 11:30am  
 Last Thursday of Month 4pm-6pm  
 1189 Commercial Street—East Weymouth



## Murphy School Turkey Trot

This year's Turkey Trot expanded to a two and one half day event. Through this even, Principal Ann Barry and the staff encouraged generosity and fostered both competition and physical activity. Participants brought in a non-



perishable for the Food Pantry, and had some fun involving physical exercise. As additional competition, the staff and teachers made up a competing group for the contest. This year's total was 1,367 pounds of donations. The drive also accepted cash which counted as two pounds of food for each dollar donated.

These are just a few of the Murphy School pupils acting like turkeys.

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## Cheerleaders Thanksgiving Food Drive

Parents of Premier, is a non-profit organization that strives to promote, develop and finance aspiring cheerleaders ages 3 – 18. They also foster sportsmanship, character and citizenship remembering that community service is a huge part of helping to give back to the communities that have so generously helped them.



Parents of Premier along with Premier Spirit Athletics – Pro Cheerleaders held a “Thanksgiving Food Drive.” POP members were able to create 20 holiday food baskets containing all the fixing's for a Thanksgiving meal and a few other thoughtful items like candles and napkins.

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## Saint Jerome Thanksgiving Food Drive

It took two trips this year for St Jerome School to deliver the proceeds of their Thanksgiving Food Drive to the Food Pantry. This year's drive almost doubled previous efforts.



Pictured in front of two of the more than three bins their donation filled are: School Principal, Kathy Puleo, School Nurse, Mary Crowley, and Volunteer Extraordinaire, Cindy Donnellan.

Thanks ladies, and thanks to all students, parents and teachers at St Jerome School for this meaningful donation.

## Additional Recent Donations

We've also received donations of food or cash from the following:

Cub Scout Pack 2, Boy Scouts, Adams Heights Club  
Promise Church

Harbor Medical Associates

Gaslight Village Residents

Weymouthport Condominium Association Board of Trustees

First Church of Weymouth

Sacred Heart Church of Braintree/Weymouth

Medical Surgical Nurses Assoc.

Trinity Episcopal Church

Telephone Pioneers

Totland College Nursery School

Union Congregational Church

Weymouth Senior Citizens & Recreation Club

As well as many, many more. . .

*If we missed you or your organization, our sincere apologies as well as our sincere thanks for your support.*



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## Shaw's Supermarket and Stop & Shop

ran special promotions recently asking shoppers to purchase and donate pre-packaged bags or boxes of food to the Food Pantry. We received hundreds of both bags and boxes.

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## Third Annual Battle of the Bars Karaoke Style to be held at the Elks Lodge on Sunday Afternoon – noon to 5pm February 26, 2012

Details: [CLICK HERE](#)

Please support this event which has raised more than \$10,000 for the Food Pantry over the past two years.

*Tickets are available at the Food Pantry.*

**Crosstown Quilters** is a local guild made up of 100 members. Bound by a love of quilting, members meet to visit, share coffee, quilting tips, accomplishments, demonstrations and classes. [www.CrosstownQuilters.org](http://www.CrosstownQuilters.org). The

Guild meets at the Tufts Library on Broad Street. Throughout the year many individual members make quilts to donate to local charities. This year, approximately 60 members attended the Guild's Christmas Luncheon. Each person brought both a quilting related item (tool, fabric, etc.) along with non-perishable food items or personal care products. The quilting items were displayed and enthusiastically raffled. These proceeds from the raffle, \$500, were donated to the Weymouth Food Pantry. The quilters brought the non-perishables to the Pantry as well where happy volunteers helped with the unloading.



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**Girl Scouts from Troops 74315, 74365 and 74358**, along with other Weymouth troops, collected cans and non-perishables before the holidays and brought them to the Food Pantry along with their thanks to the Pantry for making the lives of others better by our service to the community. Thanks girls, you are a credit to Girl Scouting!



**A holiday block party** for neighbors on Liberty Bell Circle and Flint Locke Drive turned out to be a wonderful way to help Weymouth's less fortunate neighbors. An SUV was filled with food from party goers and brought to the Pantry. Some cash donations were also greatly appreciated!

In November, **Dr. Richard Zuppardi** presented a check to the Pantry's Assistant Director, Anne Mates and volunteer, Steve Silva. Dr. Zuppardi and his staff held a unique holiday fundraiser for the Food Pantry: Jars containing Dr. Zuppardi's special Thanksgiving turkey brining ingredients were sold to willing patients and Dr. Zuppardi generously matched the money raised.



**The Weymouth High National Honor Society** also raised \$1,300 for the Pantry with a "Penny Drive". *That's a lot of pennies!* **Thanks!**

**Eastern Bank**  
BOSTON, MA 02110

No. 2891374  
DATE December 19, 2011

PAY \*\* TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS \*\* \$\*\*\*200.00

TO THE ORDER OF WEYMOUTH FOOD PANTRY  
DRAWER SANTA  
PERSONAL MONEY ORDER  
NOT VALID FOR MORE THAN \$1,000.00  
ADDRESS

Some of our volunteers were pleasantly surprised on December 19th when "Santa" dropped by and left a very nice advance present for the Food Pantry. We didn't recognize him as he was not wearing his red suit. With the Pantry's ability to obtain about \$7 for every \$1 donated, this anonymous donation will go far in our efforts to lessen hunger in Weymouth.

**Weymouth High School's Sophomore Class of 2014**, along with the classrooms of Amanda Slack and Nate Rand, collected over 1,000 non-perishable food items. Each year, the sophomore class chooses a community service project. This year it was collecting food for the Pantry. The drive was very popular with students who competed with each other to see who could bring in the largest donations.

