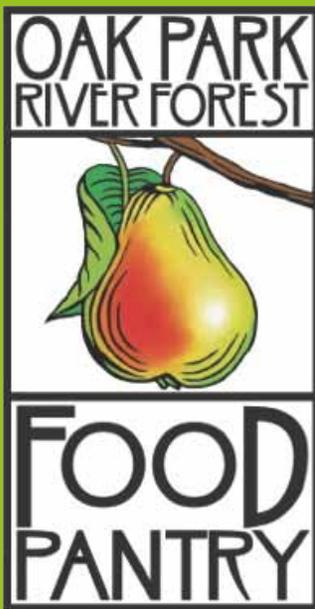


PANTRY *Pulse*

News from Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry



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PANTRY STAFF

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Executive Director
- Paula Berg, Pantry Manager
- Kristi Braun,
Community Program Manager
- Rita Kahn, Development Assistant
- Beth Klein, Bookkeeper

HOURS
Every Saturday:
 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
1st Wed. of the month:
 7:00 – 8:30 pm
2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th
Wednesday of the month:
 3:30 – 5:00 pm

DONATE NOW

For Pantry’s AmeriCorps volunteer, every day is new

Several hundred people volunteer each month to keep Oak Park River Forest Pantry well-organized and efficient while providing the kindness and compassion that make it a special place. Kyle Vicens stands out because he is the Pantry’s AmeriCorps “volunteer,” receiving a nominal stipend from the federal program for full-time service.

For the past 10 months, Kyle has worked at the Pantry and at West Suburban PADS, using his knowledge and skills to fight hunger in our communities. AmeriCorps is part of VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), originally envisioned by President John Kennedy to fight poverty in America.

Kyle is very much at home in the area: he grew up in Austin and Galewood and graduated Dominican University in

River Forest, with a B.A. in Psychology. After graduation, he was looking for a way to use his degree, his people skills and his fluency in Spanish to serve others, and AmeriCorps looked like a great fit.

There is no such thing as a typical day at the Pantry, he says, but the variety suits him well. On any given day, Kyle might be answering questions about housing, medical and dental referrals, helping clients apply for LINK cards or other benefits available to help with their needs, networking with Prevail to provide client support, or helping PADS clients access SNAP benefits. He has signed on to work at the Pantry for an additional year, so he’ll have many more opportunities to use all that he has learned.

“There are so many things I wouldn’t be exposed to anywhere else. I’ve learned to be respectful of our clients, and to try to keep them calm,” he says. He observes that when people are in need, they often have to “make priorities,” choosing which needs to address first with limited resources. Sometimes this makes them especially vulnerable to bad luck that most people can take in



Kyle Vicens serves full-time as an AmeriCorps member.

“There are so many things I wouldn’t be exposed to anywhere else.” ~ Kyle Vicens

stride. “I have lots of stories,” he says with a smile. “I knew I’d work with people with many different needs — hunger, unemployment, substance abuse issues. That part of the job didn’t surprise me.” Kyle has particularly noticed how difficult it is for retired people to get by on social security, and he enjoys being able to help elderly clients.

After he finishes his second year at the Pantry, Kyle may return to school for a graduate degree in Counseling or Business. Until then, he is happy to work at “the best Pantry in the area.” After all, where’s the fun and reward in a “typical day?”



Kyle helps a client navigate a SNAP application.

THE PANTRY THANKS THE FOLLOWING NEW DONORS

Timothy Aiossa
Patricia Ashley
Jill and Mark Bishop
Norma Blanchard
Jayne Boyle
Seth Buntain
Michael Burrello
Fernando Carrillo
Amie and Luke Casson
Kristine Cihlar
John Conmy
Robert Cordova
Pamela Cowan
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Economy Shop
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Andrea Farrell
Susan and William Finn
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Kathleen Flanagan
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Dominique Frigo
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Margaret and Denis Hutchings
Nancy and Harvey Isaac
Robert Jahm
Norma and Lewis Jenkins
Michele Johnson
Antoinette Kizak
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Nancy Korst
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William McCready
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Rosemary Serio
Jessica and Dwayne Simpson
Joanna and Eric Skubish
Patricia Staszak
Tim Talsma
Charlene Taylor
Stephanie Thomas
Ellen Toliuisis-Dokters and
Andris Dokters
Walter Van Slyke
Sue and Mark Wagner
Max Zemel-Mausner
This list includes new donors
March 1, 2013 - June 30, 2013.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Corporate matching gift programs pay it forward

No need to head to Vegas to double your money. It can be as simple and risk-free as filling out a form at work and sitting back to watch your money grow. Plenty of employers encourage workers to donate funds to their favorite community organizations, while offering to double or match a percentage through their corporate matching gift programs. Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry is the grateful recipient of such generous donations.

Last fall, nine-year Pantry volunteer Rebecca Doar, along with husband Tim, participated in an employee matching gift program offered by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. In addition, when employees elect to donate within a certain range to CME Group, Inc.'s political action committee, 50 percent of this amount can be matched to the employee's charity of choice. Thanks to the Doars, and other participating donors, this has been a win-win for the pantry.

"We've been long-time supporters of the Pantry, and since it fits within the guidelines of organizations that can be a recipient of these matching programs, we are very happy to do it," says Tim Doar.

When Jones Lang LaSalle offered pantry donor and board member Laura Beebe a

generous yearly stipend as an employee rewards bonus to donate to an organization of her choice, the Pantry was the lucky recipient. This is yet another way some corporations invest in well-regarded employees while benefiting community causes.

"My company believes in their employees, and believes in them supporting their communities. The Pantry has such great energy in the way it treats its clients and it really spends its money wisely. I'm inspired to continue donating, and this is a place I plan to continue being a part of. Offering an employee this kind of opportunity to give back is a great way for corporations to pay it forward," Beebe says.



"This is a place I plan to continue to be part of"
--Laura Beebe

Check into the corporate matching gift program available at your workplace, or ask about implementing a program if one does not yet exist. For every \$1 donation, the Pantry secures \$10 worth of food for clients.

The Pantry is grateful for the support of the following funders:

Chicago Area Combined Federal Campaign--16079

Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation

Exelon, *Energy for the Community* award in honor of employee volunteer, Audrey Todd

Manaaki Foundation

Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ

Oak Park-Cook County Program Year Gap Funds

Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation—at the behest of Donna Myers, *Excellence in Philanthropy* individual award winner

Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation—*Future Philanthropist Fund*

This list represents funding received March 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013.



DECONSTRUCTING OUR NEW LOOK

This issue of Pantry Pulse launches a new look for us. After celebrating our 35th anniversary last year, we realized the old logo no longer reflected who we are. We wanted a look that could more effectively tell our world—our clients, volunteers and donors—that we're trustworthy, committed to helping our neighbors in need, and here to stay. We wanted something that communicated what we have become, and could travel with us into the future.

Graphic designer Carrie Bankes of 529 Design donated her services to develop the logo. Carrie's background includes corporate, not-for-profit, and freelance design work (she's the founder of 529 Design) and she brought her considerable experience and design aesthetic to bear on our behalf. A long-time volunteer at the Pantry, she was an ideal partner with the staff and board committee dedicated to developing the new logo. She artfully helped us define what we wanted the logo to say about the Pantry, and patiently worked with our feedback to create a worthy symbol of Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry.

After five rounds of design work and ten different logo ideas, we arrived at the design you see here. The woodcut nature of the design reflects our hands-on approach to service and the value we place on dignity and respect. The pear

references our focus on fresh food, while the enfolding nature of the leaf speaks to our commitment to caring for our community. Taken as a whole, the logo nods to Frank Lloyd Wright's influence and reflects our grounding in community values. We think the logo is a vibrant symbol of who we are. It's professional and sophisticated but also friendly, evoking our caring and generous means of providing service.

The logo and new color scheme form our new identity system. You'll be seeing them wherever the Pantry is communicating: on this newsletter, our emails, our Facebook page, web site, our letterhead and signs. Keep your eyes peeled for new logo sightings and let us know what you think. We hope you're as excited about it as we are.



529design
VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Carrie Bankes, principal of 529 Design, donated her skills in creating our new look.

PANTRY PURPOSE

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry's mission is to work together as a community to reduce hunger locally through:

- direct hunger relief services
- hunger awareness education
- advocacy to influence anti-hunger policy



Potato field Tom Miller planted to donate to the Pantry.

Eating the "Pantry way" can be delicious

Veterans needing help with their benefits asked simply for "Charlotte" when they visited Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital, near Roosevelt Road and Fifth Avenue. It's easy to see why.

Worries drain away when Charlotte Moore greets you with her easy warmth and take-charge manner. And you'd never guess that she has worries of her own.

Her job of more than 20 years as a benefit specialist at Hines ended in 2011. Now she gets by on Social Security and disability payments for rheumatoid and osteoarthritis.

There was a time when she could have relied on her late husband, Clinton Moore. Married for more than 40 years, she met him when she was seven, started dating him at 14 and married at 17. They raised two daughters, now grown. He died suddenly of a blood clot in 2007.



"After my husband died, I crumbled," she recalls. "When you have a husband you can fall back and get 'caught.'"

She moved from their Chicago apartment of 26 years to a smaller apartment, in Forest Park, to be nearer work. She's grateful for the Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry's support.

"It's nice to deal with people that understand and treat you well," she says. Kyle Vicenes, the Pantry's AmeriCorps member, helped her apply for food stamps; she qualified for \$17 per month. And she says she's learned to eat "the pantry way."

"I take a whole lot of soup, add in some fresh vegetables, a little bit of chicken—and don't forget the noodles, and I season it real good and let it simmer for an hour," she says. "That's delicious."

She longs to work with veterans again and to use her skills, which include typing 110 words per minute. "Somewhere, somebody needs my knowledge," she says.

WHO WE SERVE

Thanks to All who Took Steps to End Hunger During Hunger Walk 2013

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry was the second largest fundraiser of the 28th Annual Hunger Walk sponsored by Greater Chicago Food Depository. This success is crucial to the Pantry as 100% of the money raised goes to the purchase of food.

Staged from the south lawn at Soldier Field, the annual event is a 5K walk along Chicago's lakefront and the largest single day anti-hunger event held in Chicago. Nearly 70 donors, volunteers, board members and staff walked to support the Pantry, raising nearly \$15,000 to stock our shelves.

To all those in our Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry communities who donated funds and energy to the Pantry—THANK YOU. Your efforts sustain our clients and enable us to fulfill our mission—working together to provide hunger relief in our community.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING



848 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301

DONATE NOW

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