

Pantry Happenings Newsletter



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June 6, 2006



IN-SERVICE: Managing Children in the Pantry **June 12, 2006 (10:00-11:30 am)**

Please mark your calendar to attend our next in-service. We are excited to hear new ideas about ways to help children and their families in the pantry.

It's a Good Day When...

Last week a mother and teenage daughter came into the pantry. We were not terribly busy, so we talked quite a bit to them and had a good time chatting. The daughter found some nice clothing and was really pleased. As they left they said:

Daughter – “This wasn’t so bad.”

Mother – “You thought you’d be bored, didn’t you?”

Daughter – “Yeah, but now I’m really glad I came.”

Caution

As the weather gets nicer, we need to remind families that children must stay in the pantry while parents shop. If a child wants to go to their car or to the playground, they must be accompanied by an adult. This is to protect them from cars (an everyday risk) and predators (hopefully, a less common risk).

Shopping Notes

We are finding that there has been some confusion on what to weigh when families are shopping. In order to make the weighing process easier, please weigh everything that a family receives (including toiletries and fresh foods). This may take a couple of loads on the scale but will also give us more information on what we give out.

Also, if you are at the desk entering shopper information, please record just the pounds and put down 0 sacks taken. This allows us to keep track of who gets sacks and who shops.

Like They Said...

We have calculated the number of pounds of food taken by shoppers and compared it with the approximate pounds we are giving out in sacks (we actually weighed a bunch of sacks, and the average was 15 pounds a sack). In April families who received sacks averaged 21 pounds of food per visit, and families who shopped averaged 24 pounds of food per visit. In May families with sacks averaged 22 pounds, and families who shopped averaged 20 pounds. Not only are the numbers very similar, but it looks like people are taking less in May than in April. This is what America’s Second Harvest predicted in End Hunger in America, and it is interesting to see it in our own pantry. It looks like shopping is a win-win situation for everyone!

Parade, What Parade?

We can still use a few additional volunteers to walk with our Fun Days Parade Float. Please let Judy know if you are able to help out with this fun activity. We welcome kids and families.

Thank You

The volunteers who helped make the "Gifts in a Jar" fundraisers did a great job. We made 86 jars. We are hoping that they will sell well at the Pancake Breakfast and Teen Band Challenge. We would like to make more for a fall fundraiser as well. Please set aside your glass quart jars so we can make this a success again.

Fun Days Activities

Please support the pantry and North Liberty.

06/09/06 – (7:00 pm) Fun Days Parade (we will have a float)
06/10/06 – (6:45 am) Pancake Breakfast (we will be selling Gifts in a Jar)
06/10/06 – (1:00-4:00 pm) Teen Band Challenge (we will be accepting cash or food donations as votes for everyone's favorite band and we also will be selling cookies and Gifts in a Jar)

Up-coming Meetings/Trainings

06/12/06 – (10:00-11:30 am) **In-Service Training – Managing Children in the Pantry**
06/13/06 – (7:00 pm) Connections Team Meeting
06/14/06 – (7:00 pm) Administration Team Meeting
07/03/06 – (4:30 pm) Recipe Group Meeting
07/06/06 – (6:00 pm) Operations Team Meeting
07/06 – (PM) **In-Service Training - Local Foods Connection**
07/10/06 – (6:30 pm) Volunteer Support Team Meeting
07/19/06 – 6:30 pm) New Volunteer Pantry Orientation
08/24/06 – (6:30 pm) New Volunteer Pantry Orientation
08/06 – (AM) **In-Service Training – A Day in the Life: What Other Volunteers Do In the Pantry**
09/06 – (PM) **In-Service Training – Volunteer Feedback**
10/06 – (AM) **In-Service Training – Recipe Group**
11/06 – (PM) **In-Service Training – Review of other Pantries**

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An outreach ministry of the North Liberty First United Methodist Church