



PantryPulse

ANNUAL REPORT, JULY 1, 2010 - JUNE 30, 2011

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

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- Kathy Russell
Executive Director
- Michele Zurakowski
Director of Operations
- Kristi Braun
Volunteer Manager
- Paula Berg
Pantry Manager

HOURS

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

Dear Friends, Donors and Volunteers,

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry served 15,723 families in need this past fiscal year, 27% more than we served the previous year. We've accomplished much this year, and hope you will share in our pride as you read this report. Your partnership is vital to us, and we deeply appreciate your support.

Beginning in January, Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry will adjust the boundaries of our service area to focus our resources on areas where food needs are not being met by other pantries. The decision was painful but necessary if we expect to continue to meet the nutritional needs of our most vulnerable clients. Rising food costs and reduced commodity support from The Federal Emergency Food Assistance Program means that food allotments are stretched ever more thinly across a client base that has grown nearly 130% since 2008. This trajectory was simply unsustainable.

Our rapid growth is a reflection of very difficult economic times, but it also is an indicator of our success in providing exceptional service, treating clients with dignity and respect in all we do.



GCFD Award Ceremony - Kate Maehr, Michele Zurakowski, Paula Berg, Kathy Russell, Pastor Leonardo D. Gilbert

The fiscal year that ended in June was no exception. Our new Client Choice format, which rolled out in October, has been an unqualified success—so much so that we were named Best Client Choice Pantry in Cook County by the Greater Chicago Food Depository in 2011.

Client Choice offers clients the ability to select from a variety of protein-rich, nutrient-dense options, and the program has made the Food Pantry experience more satisfying for both clients and volunteers. Our new nutrition education program has been so successful that we have been able to secure full funding for the coming year.

We have made many other strides. We assembled a staff of five, incorporated as a nonprofit in Illinois, secured federal 501(c)(3) status, and recruited an outstanding 12-member Board of Directors. We strengthened and formalized our partnerships with West Suburban PADS and the Walk-In Ministry to ensure a stronger network of support for clients. The Food Pantry also launched formal advocacy efforts, becoming a strong voice in the fight against hunger with our government both regionally and in Springfield.

Your generous support enables and inspires our work. Please review the following pages to see how your volunteer or monetary support has served so many clients in a special way during this last year.

On behalf of the board, staff, and the many clients we serve, we thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Russell
Kathy Russell, Executive Director

Jamie Stanesa
Jamie Stanesa, Board President



Grandpa and granddaughter wait for their turn to shop on a Wednesday afternoon at the Pantry. Photo courtesy of Dawn Altman

Working together to provide hunger relief in our community.

Our Partners

Amid tough economic times, Oak Park and River Forest Food Pantry's skyrocketing growth in demand continued throughout fiscal 2011. Other area non-profits were equally hard-pressed to keep up with the surge in need while working solo.

A larger vision for clients emerged as the Pantry devised a creative solution in the form of community-based partnerships. Crucial benefits and services flow directly to pantry clients through our collaborations with Illinois Food Nutrition Advocates, Greater Chicago Food Depository, Illinois Hunger Coalition, Maywood Area Pantry Network, Oak Park River Forest Community Services Consortium, Oak Park River Forest Area Walk-In Ministry (WIM), Westside Network Partners and West Suburban PADS. By sharing expertise and maximizing limited resources, these partnerships serve more clients with a wider range of benefits.

A desire to provide Pantry clients with food stamps led to a partnership with West Suburban PADS in 2009. A shared AmeriCorps Benefits Coordinator assists eligible clients in obtaining federal benefits such as SNAP ("food stamps"), social security and Medicaid.

The Pantry also shares a Jesuit Volunteer Corps member with WIM. That work led to the Pantry's successful local produce rescue program and provided a broader range of referral resources for clients including accessible healthcare, housing and employment services.

Through partnerships, everyone wins--or at least gets a little closer to the finish line.

The Pantry is grateful for the following DONORS of food during FY 2011.

1244th Transportation Army
National Guard Unit

Abundant Life Church
Janet Aganad

our partners

our accomplishments

Nourishing families, transforming lives

Our success in fiscal year 2011 at Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry reflects our unwavering focus on providing hunger relief while treating clients with dignity. We know that dignity is in the details: the warmth of a volunteer's greeting, the nutritional quality of the food, the care with which food is presented during distribution, the ability of clients to choose. When we get all these elements right, the experience is transformative.

"Clients come in bowed down," says Director of Operations Michele Zurakowski. "By the time they leave, even though they may be carrying 40 pounds of food, they stand a little straighter."

With the generous support of our donors, volunteers and friends, we served nearly 16,000 families in fiscal 2011 while making strides in five key areas. Here are some of our accomplishments:

Promoting healthy foods

We increased the amount of nutrient-dense foods, especially fresh fruits and vegetables, and protein-rich foods such as lean meats and low-fat dairy products. This was instrumental in helping us move beyond the "hand out whatever you have" model to becoming a center for more healthful eating.



A family receives nutrition education resources on a Saturday morning at the Pantry. Photo courtesy of Dawn Altman



Volunteers sort a bountiful harvest from a Trader Joe's produce rescue. Photo courtesy of Matt Kosterman

We expanded our food "rescue" program by recruiting more local grocers and bakers to donate useable but not perfect fresh produce and bread. Joining our list of donors were Door to Door Organics, Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD), Montalbano Farms, Panera Bread, Penzeys Spices, Red Hen Bread and Ultra Foods. GCFD provided free vegetables and bread as well as meat for four-cents a pound. Vegetable garden bounties were gratefully received from Cheney Mansion, Dominican University, Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, Hatch Patch, OPRF High School, Oak Park Temple, St. Giles Church and individual gardeners.

Clients also reap the benefits of locally run Girl Scout troop and postal worker food drives, and school competitions during the annual springtime Feinstein Challenge. Many individuals, families, block parties, children's birthdays and congregations also donate food to the Pantry on a regular basis. All of these wonderful gifts continue to make a healthful difference in pantry clients' lives and represent a \$458,832 food value.

↑ 27%
client visits

607,521
pounds of
food distributed

Dr. Agonad
 Albrecht Family
 Ann Alexander
 The Allen Family
 Alpine Foods
 Lois Altman
 Jeanne Anderson
 Atonement Lutheran Church
 Mary Lou Backe
 Baird & Warner
 William Ballard
 Pattie Ballard
 Wendy Barrett
 Dylan & Spencer Baus
 Allison Bennette
 Rachel Benoit
 Patty & John Boblick
 Sue & Ken Bozer
 Brooks Middle School
 Jordan Bruce
 Dave Burns
 Aquinita Calter
 Maria & Fabiana Cardozo
 Laurie Casey
 Carmax
 Pat Chambliss
 Cheney Mansion
 Christ Community Church
 Christ Episcopal Church
 Citi Financial
 Concordia College SAAC
 Democratic Party of Oak Park
 Maureen Dewey
 Vanessa Dreckman
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 Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
 Charles Fife
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 First Baptist Church
 First Presbyterian Church
 First United Church
 First United Methodist Church
 First United Nursery School
 Nora Fitzgerald & Judd Souder
 Allen & Martha Flaherty
 Moises L. Flores
 Fly Bird
 Focuscope
 Kris Gallagher
 Mary Ellen Gansha
 Ben Gierl, Meridian Heights Farm
 Girl Scouts Service Unit 409
 A. Gloria
 Charlie Green
 Geppetto's Toy Box
 Michele Golden
 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
 Grace Episcopal Church
 Grace Lutheran
 Alex Hasapis
 Anna Harlan
 Jordan Harris
 Hatch Patch Garden
 Graham Hawthorne
 Hemingway Foundation
 Hepzibah Children's Association
 Hines VA Hospital
 Robert Hizkok
 Holmes School
 Laurie Hoppe
 Maia Huang
 Irish Shop
 Erin James
 Julian Middle School
 David Levine & Laura Kaufman
 Catherine Keane
 Kenilworth Block Party
 Emily Kerstetter
 Louise Kiernan

Zoe Kilavos
 George Klumpner
 Mary Jo Kuenster
 Christopher Leporini
 Lincoln Elementary School
 Lincoln Girl Scouts
 Longfellow School
 Mahoney Family
 Mail Carriers Branch 608
 Mann School 1st Grade
 Mann School Cub Scouts Pack 39
 Marcia Matthews
 David Martin
 Cathy & Jerry Masterson
 Jana McLroy
 John McIlwain
 Mary McVay
 Tom Michael
 Julie Menacho
 Marilyn Moore
 Natalie Nelson
 North Avenue Business Association
 Oak Park Bakery
 Oak Park Police Department
 Oak Park Public Library Staff
 Oak Park Temple
 Oberwies Dairy
 Anastasis O'Brien
 Kelly O'Connor
 Opportunity Knocks
 OPRF Girls Cross Country
 M. Patch
 Deb Patnede
 Steve Perkins
 Pilgrim Congregational Church
 Bob Proko
 M. Prokopowicz
 Prudential Premier Realty
 Dr. Kevin Raihle
 Arlene Riley
 River Forest Community Center
 St. Catherine/St. Lucy
 St. Christopher's Church
 St. Edmund Church
 St. Edmund Girl Scout Troop
 St. Giles
 Maria Schmidt
 Cynde Seegers
 Christine Slivon
 Carollina Song
 South East Avenue Block Party
 Halina Staszewska
 B. Sullivan
 Third Unitarian Church
 Mel Thompson
 Tolman Lutheran
 TOPS
 Troop 40930
 United Lutheran Church
 Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist
 Congregation
 Shelly Uskngni
 Sadi Walton
 Weight Watchers at Work
 Weight Watchers of Oak Park
 Andrea West
 West Cook YMCA
 West Suburban Temple
 Holly Wienken
 Willard PTO
 J. Williams
 Sandy Williams
 Michele & Tom Wolford
 Wonder Works Organic Garden
 Gretchen Worley

(These are the donors that signed in when food was dropped off, there are probably many more anonymous donors for us to thank.)

The effort required more hours from our growing corps of volunteers, who collected, sorted and bagged more than 1,000 pounds of fresh food per week for distribution. Pantry Manager, Paula Berg, earned a state Food Handler license, which qualified the Pantry to offer fresh food.



A happy client hugs Pantry staff.
 Photo courtesy of Kristi Braun

Encouraging clients' self-sufficiency

Our "Client Choice" distribution system, instituted last fall, represented a major leap forward in giving clients control over their nutrition. Food is displayed much as it would be in a grocery, allowing clients to select items from various categories rather than receiving a pre-packaged assortment.

When coupled with our innovative Nutrition Education Program, also initiated last year, Client Choice teaches effective grocery shopping strategies.

The program features presentations on topics such as diet and hypertension and diabetes.

"We are a bridge for many, a lifeline for only a few."

Optimizing resources

Our diverse, ongoing fundraising supported an annual cash budget of \$400,403 in fiscal year 2011, a 35 percent increase in income compared with the previous year. Generous in-kind donations of food and supplies were valued at an additional \$463,422. We are grateful for your generous support. We use those dollars wisely. For instance, we purchase food from a local food bank, where every dollar buys the equivalent of \$8 of food.

We are fully staffed with eight members, or 5.1 full-time equivalents and we augment staff whenever possible by sharing other local resources with non profits. We share a Jesuit Service Volunteer with Oak Park River

Over **1300** volunteer hours/month

Forest Area Walk-In Ministry and an AmeriCorps member with West Suburban PADS.

Our generous cadre of volunteers stepped up to the challenge of our new initiatives. At the end of fiscal 2011, we had an average 262 active volunteers, an increase from 150 at the beginning of the year.

Practicing environmental sustainability

We obtained a grant to buy cloth grocery bags, and we encouraged Pantry clients to use them by offering an extra food item as an incentive to those bringing their own bags. More than 50 percent of clients now use reusable bags.

Our food rescue program saves more than 50,000 pounds of produce annually from being discarded. We also use a cooperative to move food from the food bank to the Pantry.

50,000 pounds of produce rescued

Advocating on behalf of people who need food

We participated with other anti-hunger advocates on lobbying initiatives in Springfield and Washington D.C. Throughout the year we communicate with legislators regarding hunger relief legislation, and we mobilize volunteers to participate in advocacy.



Volunteers closely assist clients during client choice.
 Photo courtesy of Kristi Braun

The Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges the generosity of its donors.

Donations July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Gifts in Kind

Maria Delis, registered dietician
Door-to-Door Organics, Chicago
Panera Bread, River Forest
Penzeys Spices, Oak Park
Betsy Perdue, attorney
Red Hen Bread, Oak Park
Trader Joe's, Oak Park
Ultra Foods, Forest Park
Whole Foods Market, River Forest
Dale Youngkrantz, IT specialist

\$10,000 +

The Christopher Family Foundation
First United Church of Oak Park
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Donna Myers & Aaron Lebovitz
St. Edmund Church

\$5,000-\$9,999

Laura & Michael Beebe
The Crothers-Gee Family
Barbara & Michael DeHaan
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Foundation
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First United Methodist Church
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Greenplan Management
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The Lumpkin Family Foundation
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Joan Suchomel
Alice & John Tulley
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\$200-499

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Judith & Michael Bowker
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Patrick Brown
Elizabeth & Stephen Bruner
Neil Buranakachana
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Georgia Smith

Mullins Food Products
Nineteenth Century Charitable Association
Oak Park & River Forest H.S. Empty Bowls Project
Oak Park Women's Guild
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Elisabeth & John Muhlenberg
Rocio Munoz
Katherine & Frank Murphy
Sandy & Bernard Myers
Wendy Norris & Stuart Nelson
Nancy Norton
Oak Park Temple
Out of the Box Holiday Artists' Boutique
Wendy Owen & Gregory Wolski
Marion Page
Georga & Allen Parchem
Susan & Robert Parks
Shama Patel
Rozette & Donald Patterson
Nana Pearlman
Patricia & Edward Petrick
Pigeon Printing
Rachel Pildis
Sheila & Eddie Pont
Quality Cleaning Fluids
Joan Radovich
Mary Raleigh & Edward McGillen
Mrinalini Chatta Rao & G. Ralph Strohl
Elizabeth Reed
Harriette & McLouis Robinet
James Rolfes
S.R. Drug
Lynn Scheir
Janet & Ken Schiffman
Alison Schoen
Sarah & Patrick Schott
Carmencita & Daniel Senseng
Lucy & Anthony Shaker
Ron Sherman
Catherine Simon-Vobornik

C. V. Cortelyou
Ann Courter & Norman Hirsch
Donna Culver
Nancy & Dennis Dasso
Valerie Davis
Cristy & Keith Harris
Democratic Party of Oak Park
Laura & Steven Deeks
Valerie & Michael Desiderio
Claudia & Timothy Divis
Robert Downs
Jim Driskill
Dorothy & Jacob Dumelle
Aimee Eicher
Stephanie Eiger
Carole & John Epstein
Jennifer Evans & William Jones
Wilma Evans & Nancy Bell
Lavergne & Paul Fanta
Janet Ferguson
Frank Fiorito
Ann Fisher
Millie & Hugh Flannery
Melissa & Brian Ford
Forest Park Antiques
Forest Park National Bank
Barbara Furlong
Nancy & Edward Gallagher
Carol Gates
Louise & James Gates
Glasser Preschool
Patricia & Donald Glazier
Ellen Goldrick
Anne & Ori Gottlieb
Sheryl & Mike Grant
Green Light Technical Services
Sanford Greenberg
Joyce & Timothy Greening
Marjorie & Barry Greenwald
Nancy Greer
Ma Janet Guevara
Jill & Lawrence Haas
Jacky Hackett
Alison & Thomas Hafner
Janet & Robert Haisman
Lisa & Torrence Hammond
Ellen Hanson
Kim Hartman
Harriet Hausman
Raleigh Hegwood
Marilyn & Ralph Heinrichs
Kate & Jeff Hlava
Charles Hoch & Susan Stall
Barbara Hofmaier & David Heim
Marion & Dean Hogenboom
Gail Holmberg & Henri Gillet
Holmes School
Mary & David Howorth
Ruth Anne Huston & David Feldman
Kathy & Larry Hymson
Denise & Ralph Jacob
Patricia & Fred Jacobs
Kathryn & Robert Jandeska
Michael Jogerst
Marilyn Johnson
Peggy & Gregory Jones
Janet Jones
Carol & Edward Kaleta
Natasha & Adam Kallish
Lynn Kamenitsa & Jon Hale
Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association
Jacalyn Kareb
Mimi & Chris Kennedy
Elizabeth & Christopher Keys
Helen & Jerome Klein
Sarah & Dan Knight
James Knowles & Fleur-Liza Paulino-Knowles
Linda Knutson

Gregory Padgett
Megan & Eric Palm
Nicole Paniaguas
Darla Patterson
Lynn Pautier
Elizabeth Payne
Betty & Donald Peaslee
Anibal & Ann Pepper
Mary Jane & Harry Peterson
Elizabeth Margaret Picone
Susan Piha
Maureen Pond
Jacquelyn Pope & Donald Share
Jayne Poplett
Amy & James Pritchard
Margaret & John Puccini
Laura & Caroline Reardon
Charlene Renner
Lisandra Reynoso
Theresa & John Rigas
Catherine Rison & Bruce Callahan
Warren Ritzma
River Forest United Methodist Church
Kim Robinson
Suzanne & James Rohr
Nancy & Joshua Rolock
Constance & Kris Ronnow
Jill Saponzick & Luis Torero
Cathy Schacht
James Scherer
Stephen Schlesinger
Susan & Thomas Schouten
Terri & Paul Schroeder
Lisa & Jason Sensat
Elizabeth & Michael Shanahan
Kent Sherry & Edward Helbig
Sandra Simmons
Florence Sims
Hannah Sklar & Sharon Sih
Edward & Linda Solan
Donna Solomon & Brad Ginn
Nancy Soro
Farah Bulsara Speer
State Farm Insurance
Susan Stearns
Kathryn Stewart
Edward Stojakovic
Meghan & Doug Strubel
Kathryn Sullivan & Christopher Bing
Ellen Sveinsson
Irmgard & Alfred Swanson
Randy Temple
Hilary & David Thomas
Merle & Donald Tillery
Phyllis & J. Tresselt
Warren Udelson & Harriet Hawkins
Unity Church of Oak Park
Holly Utter
Mary & Frank Vanker
Susana Vasquez & Juan Cespedes
Jane & John Vishneski
Debra Walters
Katie Wasson
Barbara & Charles Watkins
Doug Watt & Eleanor Long
Amy & Greg Watts
Cynthia Woods Weinand
Suzanne, Austin & Charles Wells
Kenneth, Tom & Pamela Wiese
Maureen & Lawrence Wilkinson
Brenda Winer
James Winikates
Wise Owl Designs
Sallie & Chuck Wolf
Leslie Kuflick Wood
Valerie Woods
Christine Worley & Peter Hood
Kathy & Albert Zaniolo
Susan & John Zaruba
Martha Zuehlke

Emily Culbertson
Marilyn Curren
Elven Cutter
Tracey & Edward Cymbal
Mary Alice Dacosse
Christina & James Darley
Roger Dart
Judy & Tapas Das Gupta
Janice Davidson
Marion Davis
Judith & Lyle De Garmo
Michelle De Leo & Peter Ellenbogen
Lisa & Tim De Lisle
Pamela & Patrick Deady
Rocio & Jose Delgado
Christine & Manual Diaz
James Dittman
Rebecca & Dan Dittmer
Rollin Dix
Denise & Lawrence Dohman
Barbara & Michael Dolan
Pamela Doman
Joy Donahue
Barbara & Gerard Downey
Mary Dring
Rosanne Druian
Julie & Kevin Duff
Tracey Dummer
Alice & Robert Dunn
Brunella Notarmarco Dutton
Dianne & Robert Ebert
Judith Ann & Lowell Eckberg
Ellen Edwards
Joshua Eisenberg
Mercedes & Charles Eitz
Harlene Elin & Mike Cramer
Jean Garner Elzey
Susan Elster-Jones
Craig Endicott
Camille Erickson
Judith Erickson
Mary Flatley Erkins
Wendy Erwin & John Lawson
Euclid Avenue United Methodist Church
Alexander Eugenides & Paula Senini-Eugenides
Donald Evans & Margaret Flynn
Cherie & Mark Fedota
Amy Felton
Madeline Fera
Anne Ferri
Lynda & Dirk Ficca
Joan & Paul Filbin
Jane & Robert Filek
Mark Finger
Thomas Finn
Christine & Mark Fisher
Gail Fisher & Eric Gyllenhaal
Lua & G. David Fisher
Angela Fitzsimmons
Aiden & Cian Flanigan
Helen & Michael Fleisher
Richard Flesher
Katherine Foran & Mark Hinojosa
Garnett Foster
Jeffery Foster & Ellen Mason
Geraldine Fox
Laurie Freeman
Gail & Paul Frost
Kathleen Gallo
Irmtraut Gangl
Olive & Franklyn Gautier
Barbara & Thomas Geller
Leticia George
Mary Kay Gerut & Jeffrey Javors
Anne & Robert Gibbons
Robert Giles
Karen & Randy Gillett
Marjorie Gockel Trust
Tim Godfrey

Deborah & George Lawler
Lea & Sachs, Inc.
Donna & Phil Lebovitz
Madonna Leen
Betsy & John Leonard
Abraham Levitan
Jane & James Levy
Elizabeth Lippitt
Kellie Little
Janet Lorch
Susan Lord
Colette Lueck
Margaret Lyons
Barbara & Richard Mackowiak
Kate Maehr & Samuel Pickering
Jean Magee
Stephen Maiorano
Jane & Ernest Malik
Meenal & Bashir Mamdani
Cynthia & Bruce Manion
Deborah & Paul Manos
Catherine Maram
Fidencio Marbella
Eleanor & Candido Marquez
Cory Marshall
Elizabeth Martin
Daniella Martinez
Mary Kay Martire
Lenore McMahon
Kathleen & Francis McGovern
Laurel McMahon
Kenton McMillen
Patricia McMillen & Samuel Bader
Karen McMillin
Patricia & James McNally
Catherine & David McNary
Ramona & James McNeese
Lauri & Keith Meier
H.R. Mellman
Ruhan Memishi
Sylvia & Gysbert Menninga
Jennie Meyer
Pam Meyerson
Marilou Minarik & David Manuele
Glenda & Erika Mixon
Marie & William Monaco
Shirley & Phil Morley
Colleen Moroney-Maia
Brandon Morreale
Carol Morrison & Randall Mitchell
Margaret & Charles Morscheck
Mr. Mrkvicka's 7th Grade Advisory
Mary Jo & Laurence Msall
Sally & Ralph Muehleisen
Dennis Murawski & Judy Yang-Murawski
Roselen & Strother Murphy
Melinda & John Murray
Mary & James Murray
Patricia Nania & Noelle Sokolowski
Susie & Steven Narkis
Margaret Ndiaye
Ellen & Richard Nelson
Judith Newman
Nikki Hale Consulting
William Niro
Patricia Nix-Hodes
June Noonan
John O'Brien
Sabine Oberberger
Karla & Logan Oberholzer
Kevin Ochalla
Patricia & Steven Olderr
Sarah Olson
Doris Oltman
Suzanne & Guillermo Osorio
Donna Oswald
Elizabeth Overland & Gene Collard
Valerie & Norman Parish
Park District of Oak Park

Deb Spector
Sharon & Kurt Stadtwald
Jeanne & Eli Stanesa
Diane & Paul Stanke
Christine & David Stannard
Eileen & Thomas Stanton
Joy & Joseph Stastny
Margaret & Albert Staven
Tina & John Stekete
Karen & Jeffrey Stelmach
Susan Lord
Maurie & Dean Stern
Joan & James Stevenson
Felicia Stewart
Katherine Stohr & John Blasi
Linda Stolt
Marion & Jayson Strode
Jeanne Sullivan
Susanne & Jim Sutphen
Stuart Swibel
Deborah & Romulo Tamondong
Melissa & David Taub
Diane Taylor
Hilarie & David Terebessy
Jane McGill Testoni
Marilyn Bayne Thomas
Lois & Carmen Tosto
Hallie Trauger
Tina Tullberg
Nancy & Matt Tushman
Lois & Spencer Tyson
Maureen Vachta & Bruce Kleinman
Daisy Valdes
Linda Van Dyke
Alice Vandersteen
Jill & Daniel Vargas
Christine & Michael Veseley
Katrina & Richard Vignses
Village of River Forest
Laura Voigt
Judy Vojta
Joyce & Paul Volpe
Anne Wakely
Cathy Waldorf
Nan Walicki
Linda Walker
John Wallick
Richard Wank
Sloan & Thomas Watson
Rhonda Watts
Cary Webb
Janet Weis
Racquel & Christian Wells
Wellspring Management LTD
Karen Wenzlaff
Yvette Wesley
Richard Wheelock
Anita White
David Wildfield & Jennifer Mannebach
Joanne Williams
Dorothy & Kenneth Wilz
Nancy & George Wohlford
Keli Wojciechowski
James Blythe Wolfe & Julie Lloyd
Judy & David Wray
Joy Yamasaki
E. C. Yee
Iris & Victor Yipp
Douglas Zapotocny & Marianne Protes
Claudette & Herb Zobel

*deceased

HONOR ROLL of Volunteers for FY 2010-11.

over 500 hours
Barb Weakly

300-399 hours
Gale Zemel

200-299 hours
Kate Foy

100-199 hours
Jane Barker
Belinda Bremner
Veronika Burmeister
Jayne Doyle
Willie Mae Harris
Anne Johnson
Kristen Ras

50-99 hours

KC Ballard
Jake Dickens
Vera Dowell
Cathy Duke
Ray Faghiih
Laona Fleischer
Connie Geocaris
Bobbie Hald
Barb Hickey
Peter Jaffe-Notier
Daniel Keys
Linda Knutson
Kathi Kyrias
Lilian Lau
Marot Lorimer
Karen Mansfield
Joe McKittrick
Barbara Moline
James Morrison
Maureen Newman
Phil Schoenthal
Darlene Smith
Warren Udelson
Katrina Vigsnes
Phyllis Voosen
Mark Weber
Claudia Zinanni

25-49 hours

Paul Aeschleman
Linda Bachelder
Sue Beckman
Joel Browdy
Nancy Burgoyne
Kris Cihlar
Bonnie Chauncey
Analisa Concepcion
Donna Culver
Marilyn Curren
Vanessa Delgado
Becky Doar
Judi Dziwak

Vickie Engelhardt
Sheila Essig
Greta Fleischer
Sophie Gardner
Bill Grady
Diana Graham
Barbara Greenup
Brian Hameister
Ellen Hanson
Silas Harrington
Mitchell Horn
Mlyn Howard
Michael Hubbard
Kathy Hymson
Bill Janulis
Wesley Jones
Karen Komala
Donna Kotulak
Katie Larson
Bob Larson
Susan Larson
Andy Lawrence
Yvonne Lawrence
Vicky Lekovish
Judy Longman
Janet McEnaney
Mike Mizen
Ron Moline
Damian Munoz
Susie Narkis
Nicole Nieciak
Margie O'Malley
Kris Ronnow
Lisa Ruhland
Nikki Schneider
Donna Schoenthal
Thom Schouten
Judy Shelstad
Orly Slobodkin
Pat Slovak
Karen Sutherland
Audrey Todd
Martha Trantow
Peter Trantow
Ariana Valderrama
Cathy Waldorf
Gay Watkins
Mary Jane Welter
Valerie Woods
Doug Zapotocny
Jacqueline Zdziarski-West
Jeff Zemel

Many other volunteers gave of their time, but space limits us from listing everyone. We are grateful to those that gave an hour or 500 hours.

our volunteers

Stepping up to growing need

Being able to volunteer for an organization that treats everyone with dignity and respect, in an organized and productive fashion while also efficiently leveraging all its resources, is a rare and unique opportunity. Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry is a microcosm of community values expressed through a dedicated staff supported by 1,350 volunteers, in a space not much larger than a three-car garage.

Volunteers consistently use words like “inspiring,” “joy” and “meaningful” when asked to describe their experience. The Pantry’s emphasis on treating clients with dignity in an atmosphere of support is key to effectively engaging both clients and volunteers. As one volunteer said about the roll-out of Client Choice: “Less waste = happier clientele. Happy clientele = happy volunteers.”

Volunteers collect and unload food, sort and display it to make it easier for clients to select the best items for their families. They help clients choose and carry food to their cars or public transit stops.

For many, volunteering for both set-up and distribution underscores how a good presentation helps distribution go smoothly and promotes satisfying exchanges between clients and volunteers. Volunteers learn that the Pantry is about more than food; it’s about nourishing body and soul. They

experience first-hand the Pantry’s focus on dignity in the details.

Volunteer Manager Kristi Braun co-hosts informative orientation sessions for new volunteers and the response is impressive. From July 2010 to June 2011, the total number of volunteer shifts increased 186%. Total number of volunteers increased 220%. Volunteer hours for the year increased by 151%, with a total of 12,351 hours invested. That’s equivalent to a full-time staff of six. Greater numbers of youth and families are volunteering. Local school requirements for service hours have brought the Pantry wonderful younger volunteers.

“I view our food pantry as a service organization,” Braun said. “And exceptional service is what makes an organization successful. I always want both our volunteers and clients to walk away with a good feeling – whether they were being served or serving.”



On a cold winter day, volunteers help unload 10,000 pounds of food. Photo courtesy of Matt Kosterman



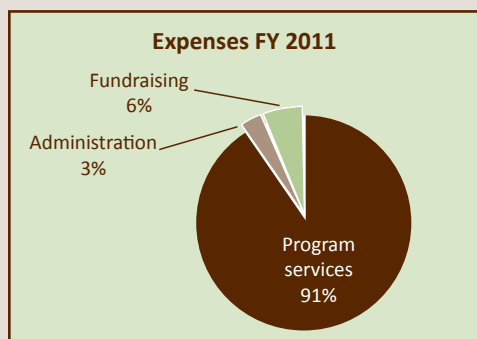
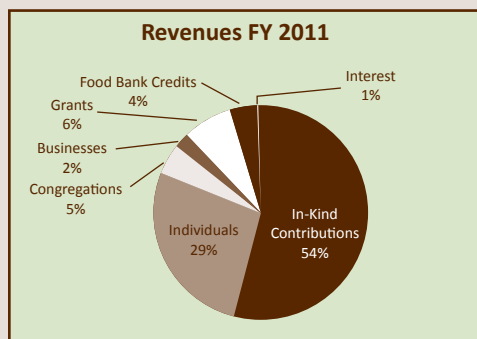
Ninety-two volunteers step out for the Annual Hunger Walk on our behalf. Photo courtesy of Kathy Russell

\$126,651

Value of volunteer time

financial report

To request a copy of our independent auditor's report, please contact our bookkeeper at 708-386-1324 x105.



Oak Park & River Forest Food Pantry Financials as of June 30, 2011. Sassetti Certified Public Accountants

Statement of Financial Position

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$113,520.00
Accounts receivable	\$1,275.00
Prepaid insurance	\$4,736.00
Property and equipment	\$19,359.00
Food credit receivable	\$15,064.00
Total Assets	\$138,890.00
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$2,317.00
Accrued payroll	\$5,392.00
Total Liabilities	\$7,709.00
Net Assets	
Temporarily restricted	\$344.00
Unrestricted	\$145,941.00
Total Net Assets	\$146,285.00
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$153,994.00

Statement of Activities

Revenues and Other Support	
Contributions - individuals	\$249,582.00
Contributions - congregations	\$45,443.00
Contributions - businesses	\$14,557.00
Grants- foundations and organizations	\$56,131.00
GCFD credits	\$34,982.00
In-kind food	\$458,832.00
In-kind supplies	\$4,590.00
Interest income	\$52.00
Total Revenues and Support	\$864,169.00
Expenses	
Program services	\$776,345.00
Management and general	\$27,465.00
Fund raising	\$52,588.00
Total Expenses	\$856,398.00
Change in Net Assets	\$7,771.00
Net Assets	
Beginning of year	\$138,514.00
End of year	\$146,285.00

91% of revenues support Pantry programs

Pantry Pulse

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry
848 Lake Street
Oak Park, IL 60301

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #98
Oak Park IL

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

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

Inside you will find our Fiscal Year 2010-11 Annual Report.

Please read how your generous support enables and inspires our work.

our clients



Two boys meet while waiting for parents to finish shopping at the Pantry on a Saturday morning.
Photo courtesy of Dawn Altman

The reasons why

It's a standing-room-only crowd at the Pantry on a recent Saturday morning. Jose, one of the new visitors, holds his paperwork and volunteer form for the Pantry. "I had a job, but I have epilepsy, and it was hard to keep it," said Jose. "I came here so I can get something to eat, and then I will volunteer to help the people who help me."

Shannon, another new client, waits with her son Isaiah, who is two. She is studying to be a Pediatric nurse and works 6 to 12 hours every day in training while Isaiah is in day care.

"I can't work, because my training is my work, and there aren't any more hours in the day," she says. "I want our life to be better, and while I'm in school I need help."

Isaiah smiles and the man next to him reaches into his coat pocket and holds out a peppermint.

Brenda, a longtime Pantry client, has a prosthetic leg and makes the trip with Florence, her friend of 30 years. The two met at work and are neighbors. Florence retired and Brenda had to leave work because of her disability. The two agree that they couldn't get by without the help they find at the Pantry.

"You all are like a big positive beam of light on this corner," said Brenda, the more talkative of the two. "I hope you never go away."

Florence nods, and agrees that her "spokesperson" couldn't have said it better.

How to help feed your community

www.oprffoodpantry.org

DONATE	Write a check or use PayPal on our website.
VOLUNTEER	Click the "Sign Up to Volunteer" button on our website.
PLAN AN EVENT	Organize a food drive for your birthday party, block party, congregation or child's school.
EDUCATE	Email info@oprffoodpantry.org to coordinate a presentation by Pantry staff for your congregation, club, workplace or child's school.

help us