

## CHARLESTON AREA CHURCHES

### FOOD PANTRY NEWSLETTER

"for I was hungry and You gave me food; I was thirsty and You gave me drink; I was a stranger and You took me in." Matthew 25:35  
Hours M-W-F 1:30-4:00 & Th 5:30-7:00



**NOVEMBER 2021**

#### **PANTRY NEWS**

Exciting news!!! The addition is almost finished. As of the 12<sup>th</sup>, all that was left to be completed was the trim work around the ceiling. This extra space is going to be so useful for more storage, and for parking and unloading the van.

The new shelving is partly here, the metal frames have been delivered, but we are waiting on the wood shelves.

As far as other pantry news, there has been an increase in the number of people coming for assistance. We are still not where we were pre-covid, but seeing more people.

Todd has submitted a grant request to the Regional Office of Education for funding they have received from the federal government for provisions to help homeless children remain in school. The one area of this grant that the money can not be used for is food. So, why did we apply? Well, we can use funding to purchase any type of non food expenses that will help homeless children remain in school.

So, Todd asked for funding to purchase more of the hygiene items we distribute, including tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, toilet paper, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products. The ROE plans to have an answer to the pantry sometime in January or February, and the money must be spent by August 31, 2022.

The pantry is working in cooperation with Eastern Illinois University to help them set up an on-campus food pantry. Crystal Brown, assistant director of EIU Civic Engagement and Volunteerism, is the manager of this new pantry. In October and November the pantry helped with the ordering of food through the Eastern Illinois Foodbank in Urbana. EIU volunteers picked the delivered food up at the pantry for transport to campus.

The plan is for EIU to get their own foodbank account for ordering and delivery directly to the campus. This pantry will be very useful for students experiencing food insecurity.

#### **THANKS**

A HUGE thank you to the Habitat for Humanity staff and volunteers for all the work done on the addition to the building. The saving on the cost of labor was such a blessing, and helped the pantry be a good steward of the funds used for the addition.

Also, many suppliers donated material, or gave discounts for the build, this also helped the budget. Since we were able to save money, that means we have more to spend on food!

A special thank you for was a donation made in honor of Steven Jones by Matt and Joyce Madigan.

There was also a memorial made for Stephanie Schultz. May God comfort the family and loved ones of Stephanie.

#### **OCTOBER 2021 NUMBERS**

Families: 198    Individuals: 620

Meals: 5,580

Donated food in pounds:

USDA: 6,479    EIF: 79    Individuals: 39

WalMart: 6,647    Ruler: 1,026

*Happy Thanksgiving!!!*