



The Pantry Door

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The Coordinator's Corner.

Are you ready for everything the New Year promises? We are gifted a blank slate with 365 days neatly assigned to months and weeks. But, how do we write on that slate? What do we put into each numbered box? I can tell you, I want each day to

count. Oh, it may not be a monumental or even memorable event, but my goal is to be positively produc-

tive each and every day. I can't think of a better opportunity than serving with the Homer Community Food Pantry.

Here's to a safe, enjoyable 2019. I can't promise that there will not be challenges. But, we are here to help in any way we can.



A Special Thanks...

...to Uncle Herb's. During this holiday season, their customers donated nearly 4,000 pounds of non-perishable food items to the Homer Food Pantry.

You kept our drivers busy. Thanks for your astonishing work.

Providing food and emergency assistance, with compassion, to those seeking our services.

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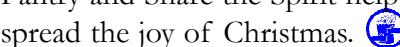
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Share The Spirit at Christmas.

This year Share the Spirit, together with the Food Pantry, served nearly 300 families from Ninilchik to Nanwalek. Each year, Share the Spirit takes applications for families in need of food and gifts for Christmas for several weeks leading up to the holiday. This requires a significant amount of help from the community at large. Gifts are donated by individuals via giving trees placed around town. Food is provided through various drives and fundraisers, namely the annual Spaghetti Feed. Cash donations go toward bulk food purchases, turkeys and gifts. It all comes together at the Homer High School the weekend prior to the holiday where food boxes are packed with Christmas dinner ingredients as well as pantry staples. Gifts are

rounded up and sorted for each family. It is a wonderful sight to behold! Families in need can go to any agency or church to sign up for Food and/or Gifts through Share the Spirit. All of the applications are submitted to Share the Spirit and are cross referenced on a master list to eliminate duplicates while serving as many households as are in need from Ninilchik to villages across the bay. The last couple of years, the Food Pantry has been assisting by taking care of the single person households and those families who missed signing up. They also provided a turkey and dinner ingredients so that every client would feel the warmth of Christmas. Together, the Food Pantry and Share the Spirit help to spread the joy of Christmas.

--by Cinda Martin HCFP
Board Secretary & Share The Spirit



The Reverse Advent Boxes Engaged All Ages.

Well before Christmas, the Reverse Advent boxes began to arrive.

It turns out that many young people have a tremendous heart for giving, and the Reverse Advent boxes were a very specific way to turn that giving desire into a family project.

As early as December 12th, the phone started ringing as filled boxes



Anna, Aurora and Uma

were ready to be delivered. The girls pictured had worked extra hard to finish the boxes early so the family could travel out of town for the holidays. Each box was decorated and signed.

Thanks to so many who helped make this a successful Christmas event. You are all joy-givers.

