The Pantry Door

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The Coordinator's Corner.

hanks to the Homer Chamber ▲ of Commerce, the Homer Food Pantry has been invited to participate in the Homer Food Festival coming up June 19th and 20th. No, we won't be serving anything tasty, but we will have coolers and donation bins set up to receive any food donation you would be willing to

make.



drop by the Kevin Bell parking lot, visit the food trucks

and Sunday,

Both Saturday

assembled there

and make a donation to the Food Pantry.

We will also have the newly published Good Neighbors Cookbook for sale during this event.

So, drop by, say hi and make an investment in food security in the greater Homer community.

A Special Thanks...

...to the team of daily donation pick up drivers. This includes our newest additions, Erin O'Gorman and Hal Smith plus veterans, Tom Early, Hal Spence, Eric Morris, Geoff Murphy and stand-bys Ruth Dickerson and Tim Steinberg. This represents a commitment by all team members to assure daily service.

Food For Kids Going Strong.

Tt began as a summer program to **I**provide lunches and snacks to kids with food insecurity and became a staple with the onset of COVID-19. Each week the Food Pantry supplies volunteers at the Homer Public Library with items in bulk like peanut butter, jelly, soups, stews and chili, tuna or chicken, top ramen, canned fruit and snack size tortillas, and one of our board members supplies the nylon back packs. From there, the Library volunteers pack, stock and advertise the kits which are available every day at a curbside tote. No permission or check-in is needed. If a kid is hungry, the bags are there for the taking.

We have been very blessed to have Claudia Haines as such a strong partner in this project. In 2020, the library distributed 195 bags between May and December. Prior to May, the Food Pantry partnered with individuals at West Homer, Homer High and Homer Flex. But with schools operating virtually, the need for the Library Program was evident and we were able to continue year-round without interruption.

The program continues though Claudia is leaving the Library. She is passing the torch to Regi Joanos. We look forward to continuing this much needed project! If you know of a child or young adult who is facing food insecurity, have them stop by the Library to grab a bag to go. If you'd like to help out with the bags, we could use snack items and jelly in 4 ounce jars, give the Pantry a call at 235-1968.

Food Pantry Cookbook Goes To Press.

Mhat is the best way to share food preparation ideas with clients, utilizing the items provided most often by the Food Pantry? After several months of consideration, the Homer

Food Pantry decided to assemble a cookbook. Requests went out to both board members and volunteers for their favorites. The resulting cookbook is a compendium of recipes, using the most available



items from the Food Pantry. The Good Neighbors Cookbook will be offered free to all clients as they shop on Mondays. In addition, the cookbook will be

offered as a fundraising project.

Be sure to stop by the Kevin Bell parking lot June 19th or 20th during the Homer Food Festival and pick up your copy for a donation.

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