

Local Food Pantries: Here to Help and in Need of Volunteers

Local food pantries are feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, experiencing increased numbers of those in need and a need for more volunteers. In the west county are pantries are located in Albion, Edinboro, Fairview, and Girard. In general, each pantry serves specific zipcodes (primarily aligned with school districts).

The Christian Cupboard, whose distribution center is located at 34 Church Street in Girard), has experienced a 35% increase in the number of families served. That number is expected to continue to grow.

Distribution days are the first and third Thursdays of every month between the hours of 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. To limit personal contact, changes have been made to the process. Clients no longer enter the building; they provide their information to a volunteer outside in a tented area. All food is pre-packaged by family size and taken to clients' cars by volunteers.

Beginning with the May 7 distribution, we will be providing Second Harvest boxes rather than packing our own bags. The boxes weigh about 25 pounds, and we are really going to need more help. Many of our regular volunteers are older and either reluctant to expose themselves to personal contact, or they do not have the physical strength to spend a couple of hours carrying boxes.”

Volunteers are needed from 10 a.m. to noon to unload the truck from Second Harvest and more would be needed between 1:00 and 5:00. All work is done on the first and third Thursdays of the month. Volunteers generally work a two-hour shift. The Christian Cupboard needs your help--can you give two hours once or twice a month to help your friends and neighbors in need? Please call the First Presbyterian Church office (774-3985) between 9 a.m. and noon to volunteer.

If you know anyone who needs help, even if this need is only temporary, or if you've lost your job and/or your income has been severely reduced, food pantries are here to help. For the Christian Cupboard those in need should come to the pantry between 1:00 and 5:00 on the first or third Thursday of the month. Please bring your photo ID and proof of address (such as a current utility bill) to register.

No one should go hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic. With school closures, job disruptions, and health risks, many will turn to food banks for much-needed support. People who never needed help before need it now. We are here to help for those with temporary needs for as long as they need assistance.

Because the local churches are currently not meeting, the Christian Cupboard is not sending out a list for monthly donations. Once our world gets back to normal we'll send you a list.