

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



AUGUST 2019

PANTRY NEWS

The pantry was busy as usual in August, with no operating problems. Master Gardeners, and other folks have started bringing produce in to share. These items are always appreciated.

The new computer system is running well, the wait time for guest is shorter once they are in the system. There are still new people coming every distribution day, but all the volunteers have learned the new system well, so entering new guest is quicker also. New technology, along with the changes it brings, is an adjustment, but in the long run, it usually proves to be helpful.

The pantry can always use more volunteers, so any one interested can contact Kenda Condon. Volunteering is very easy at the pantry, with training done the first time one works. The main qualification is a love for helping others, along with the ability to lift heavy boxes, and if able, to work the computer.

The pantry did receive an award from the Eastern Illinois Foodbank (EIF) for being an outstanding food distribution center. The plaque is proudly displayed in the pantry. Thank you to all the pantry volunteers that work so hard to make our pantry meet the standards the EIF sets for assisting people in need.

THANKS

- McDonald's for their food donation.
- The Charleston Library donated more food given through their summer reading program.
- The Presbyterian Woman's Morgan Trust fund made a generous monetary donation.
- Master Gardeners, and other produce providers.
- Illinois Extension Office for donating produce they purchased at Arthur food auction.
- Local churches and individual donors for their monthly support.

All donations of any amount are always very useful, and greatly appreciated!

JULY 2019 NUMBERS

Families: 439 Individuals: 1,564

Meals: 14,076

Donated food in pounds: EIF: 1,693

USDA: 9,764 WalMart – 6,524

Ruler – 121 Other – 443

FAST FACTS – Master Gardeners

- A Master Gardener is a person trained in the science and art of gardening.
- To be a Master Gardener one must apply through a County Extension office that provides the training.
- Once certified the role of a master gardener is to advise and educate the public on gardening and horticulture.
- The majority of master gardeners are volunteers, however there are paid jobs in some areas of the country.
- The Coles County Master Gardeners hold seminars, and have plant sales to fund projects.

May everyone enjoy the remainder of the summer, stay cool, and eat lots of produce!