



Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. More than 43% of our member food pantries are solely volunteer run. Please consider one of the initiatives below:

Pantry Volunteer: Our coalition of more than 60 member food pantries in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties are always looking for friendly faces to help on a multitude of levels. Each of our food pantries have unique days and times they serve patrons. This is a great opportunity for individuals who are looking for a regular volunteer schedule to get involved. Last year our coalition distributed 1,380 tons of food, providing 2.7 million meals for our neighbors in need. Ongoing commitments are appreciated for this specific opportunity.

Office Assistant: At our headquarters in Albany, we are always looking for volunteers who enjoy working in an office setting. We have many tasks that include telecommunications, mailings, and data entry. We also have our Food Rescue Program where volunteers arrive at 8:00 am and repackage donated baked goods for our neighbors in need. In 2016 we distributed 235,781 baked goods with the assistance of our amazing volunteer team.

Community Ambassadors- Outreach and Awareness: These volunteers attend events during week days, evenings, and/or weekends, raising awareness about hunger in the Capital District, handing out literature about The Food Pantries, and engaging the public on food insecurity. They explain what The Food Pantries does, the needs in our local communities, and offer resources for the general public and ways they can help our neighbors in need such as food and fund drives.

The Canister Project: Run entirely by volunteers, we approach local retailers and ask if they'd accept our small canister to place on their front counter, near the register to collect money. We have two Canister Drives per year, one over the summer and one during the holidays. Last year our 7 canister volunteers raised \$12,000 which equates to 75,000 pounds of food, providing 62,500 meals!

Food, Fund, and Other Drives: Everyone can run a "Food and Fund Drive" anytime throughout the year. Some examples are a *Neighborhood Drive*, a *Work-Place Drive*, a *Church-Drive*, or a *School-Drive*. Also consider doing a drive for diapers and formula, toiletries, feminine hygiene products, and produce. Food goes far, but funding goes even further. Just \$1.00 can provide up to 6.25 pounds of food.

If interested, please contact us: 518-458-1167 or e-mail pantries@thefoodpantries.org.

Working together to feed the hungry in our community, The Food Pantries for the Capital District is a coalition of 61 food pantries located in Albany, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady Counties. Annually, The Food Pantries helps fund, collect, and delivered 1,380.01 tons of food for our food member pantries, which helps provide food for approximately 2.7 million meals. We also support our member pantries by providing service coordination, education, training, opportunities for networking, and infant needs and holiday meals programs. Established in 1979, The Food Pantries for the Capital District is a 501 (c) (3). For more information on our programs, or how you can help, please visit www.thefoodpantries.org.