

# St. George Food Pantry

## *We Feed His Sheep*

### Letter from the Director

by Janet Cavanaugh



It's Spring! A time for new growth, warm breezes, rain showers, and refreshed hope. We at the Food Pantry try to give a little hope along with the

food we give to our clients – a little food for the soul. When we greet our clients with a warm smile, as sure as the colorful flowers follow the showers in spring, a smile will bloom on the faces of people seeking our assistance. That smile and hope also go home with those of us who serve. We know that working and sharing together come full circle.

In the newsletter, you'll read about Ruby Lewis, a charming grandmother we have been blessed to know. She's one of the many people who are grateful for the services of the Food

Pantry, and we appreciate what we have learned from her. Believe me, I am keenly aware of the poverty that exists in the areas of the community that we serve. But every time the Food Pantry door swings open, I feel that hopeful spring breeze caressing all who enter.



### A Client Says "Thank You"

Mrs. Ruby Lewis recently sent this letter to the Food Pantry. We are reprinting it here with her permission.

To the St. George Staff,

*I cannot thank you enough for the years of help that you gave to me and my three grandchildren. I was 63 years old. They were two-year-old twins and a five-year-old. You helped me to feed them until they were grown.*

*My father always said if you have a child that is hungry, you have a child that will steal. They never went hungry. Saint George was always my "rain in the bush", my life-giving miracle. No one can*

*begin to know how hard it was, but I thank you and I thank God.*

*Sometimes I would hear people complaining of what you gave them or didn't give them, and it really bothered me. I was so thankful for what you gave me. I could work with everything you gave me and was so happy with it.*

*Thanks again and God bless you all.*

Mrs. Ruby M. Lewis

Reply from the Editor:

Dear Mrs. Lewis,

I am sure that I speak for all the staff at the Food Pantry when I thank you

for your kind words. The reason we work at the Pantry is to help people like you and your family. I am glad that we made the difficult task of raising your grandchildren easier for you. Grandmothers who take in young children and love them and help them grow up are such important members of our community. We are honored to know you.

Thank you and God bless.

# Thanks



## Easter Presents

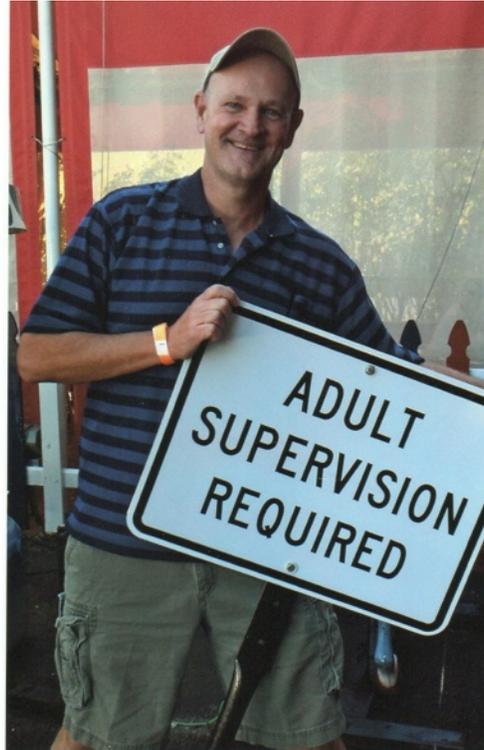
Generous gifts for our clients were received from St. Monica St. George Parish and Union Savings Bank.

Personal care and cleaning products are not covered by food stamps, and these are what St. Monica St. George members collected during the six weeks of Lent. Shopping bags with a list of suggested products were distributed to parishioners and returned full of needed supplies.

Union Savings Bank also contributed cleaning products. In addition, they provided Easter baskets with grass and small stuffed animals and candy for the children.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of so many people to help our adult clients and to bring joy to their children.

## Spotlight on Volunteers - Dan Parsley



Dan Parsley has worked at the Food Pantry for 14 years. He started out working Saturday mornings after responding to an ad in the Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church bulletin: "We need volunteers with strong backs for lifting." Since his first day at the Pantry, Dan has given his back and his heart to the work.

Currently, Dan's primary role is as a member of the Wednesday morning group which helps Janet with the behind-the-scenes tasks that keep the Pantry going. Group members pick up

food and other items from the Freestore Food Bank and unload the van and organize the products in the Pantry. Group members also clean the Pantry and do other tasks as needed.

Dan loves his work at the Pantry. He is grateful for the life lessons he has gained by working with Janet and the other volunteers. He has watched volunteers work with clients with respect, kindness and grace. He has worked with people who come to help out even though their own personal situations are challenging. And he respects and admires Janet, who knows every client's name and treats each one with consideration.

In addition to the Food Pantry, Dan's other work of the heart is Children's Hospital where he volunteers in the ER and in the Intensive Care Unit, offering comfort and a little fun to children and their families. He was the original recipient of the hospital's Children's Champion Award in 2009.

Dan loves to travel, and he returns often to the Southwest, where he went to college. He enjoys photographing the desert vistas, and hiking in the mountains and desert. He has hiked to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and back eight times, including two times he did it all in one day. Dan also runs half marathons, and plays tennis at the international competition level.

## Volunteers Are Always Needed

We welcome new volunteers to bag groceries, package foods, restock shelves, prepare orders for clients, help clean, interview clients, and make people feel welcome.

We offer much in return: great coworkers, on-the-job training, flexible hours, multi-generational staff, community service hours, and the opportunity to really help others.

**Saint George Food Pantry**  
Dennis Street off Calhoun, Corryville

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(513) 751-8771

**Hours:**  
Monday & Tuesday - 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
Last Fridays - 1:00pm to 2:30pm  
Last Saturdays - 10:00am to 11:30am

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