



Warmest wishes to each and every one of you -- the scores of volunteers who make it possible for the Hillside Food Pantry to be a blessing to thousands of people in need.

- ** We raised over \$40,000 to double the size of our Pantry building and have been able to stay on budget, thanks to volunteers & professionals who have provided services for far less than their normal rates, and suppliers who are giving us discounts on materials.
- ** We were able to replace the faithful, but dangerously worn-out van with a reconditioned box truck to pick up food.
- ** As a result of our partnership with Hunger Resources Network, we picked up hundreds of pounds of fresh food from the Evanston Farmers Market, received & distributed 2200 pounds of chicken, and will be the beneficiary of \$5,000 worth of food from Whole Foods Market's "Bag Hunger" campaign.
- ** We were able to keep up with the costs of running the Pantry & buying food -- barely! While we receive thousands of pounds of donated food, we also buy thousands of pounds of food from the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Even though it costs pennies per pound, we're currently serving an average of 500 families a week! But because of the generosity of many, we've never run out of food.

Other wonderful gifts and offerings from many different sources have been:

- ∞ Pumpkins and flowers from West End Nursery on 10/30
- ∞ We received \$5,000 towards the purchase of a 15 foot box truck in November
- ∞ Hunger Resource Network supplied us with 1,520 pounds of chicken in November
- ∞ Jewel-Osco awarded us a grant of \$2,459 (2010 Hunger Relief Grant Program) to purchase a conveyor table, a dolly and hand truck, and a wheeled cart, which we received in November.
- ∞ Monetary donation from Insights in Marketing, LLC towards our GCFD account in November/December
- ∞ Canned goods donation from Jake Conterato – Bar Mitzvah service project – December
- ∞ Whole Foods Bag for Hunger fund raiser over November and December provided us with over \$9,000 to purchase food - received 5 tons of non-perishables in January

- ∞ Topco Associates, LLC in Skokie became a new donor partner by providing non-perishable items on a monthly basis beginning December 2010
- ∞ Two ETHS high school students and pantry volunteers, Alex Kombwa and Nora Frigo, had a Facebook fundraiser for the pantry and raised over \$1,200, some of which went to our GCFD account and the rest to our funds at Hillside and they raised monies at an ETHS basketball game for the pantry – received in January
- ∞ ETHS hosted their 11th annual Empty Bowl Project on 12/8/10 and proceeds of \$1,985 were sent to us this last week

Most of all, despite how fast and big we've grown, we've been able to maintain the warm & welcoming atmosphere that many patrons have said that they appreciate as much as the food.

Many of you have expressed how much the relationships you've developed with patrons & each other have made serving at the Pantry a richer experience. I believe that this is what sets us apart most as a Pantry, and it is what I'm most proud of and blessed by.

It's about more than just the food.

May we continue to show the compassion, respect & caring to all who have become a part of our Pantry community.

God's peace & blessings to you,

Maiya Lueptow

Director, Hillside Food Pantry