



# HILLSIDE FOOD PANTRY

EVANSTON

# News & Notes

Volume 2, September 2009

## Partnering With The Greater Chicago Food Depository

The significance of Hillside Food Pantry partnering with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) is multi faceted. In addition to supportive services, GCFD helps the local food pantry by offering many grocery items that can be purchased for as little as 4 cents per pound, stretching our donation dollars much farther than purchasing items at retail. GCFD also offers member agencies use of their market, which is a store within GCFD where agencies can pick up some items at no charge. It is not uncommon for our pick up crews to leave GCFD store with an entire van load of food for as little as free to \$10. Our regular orders which are placed twice each month can run anywhere from \$150 - \$250 for an entire van load of food.

Being a member agency of GCFD also gives us the ability to receive refrigeration and freezer units periodically free of charge after we have been members for one year. Hillside Food Pantry can also send volunteers to work at GCFD which adds \$5 per hour per worker to our financial account. Hillside workers may sign up for food service management courses, sanitation license courses as well as many other educational opportunities through GCFD at reduced cost with many being free of charge.

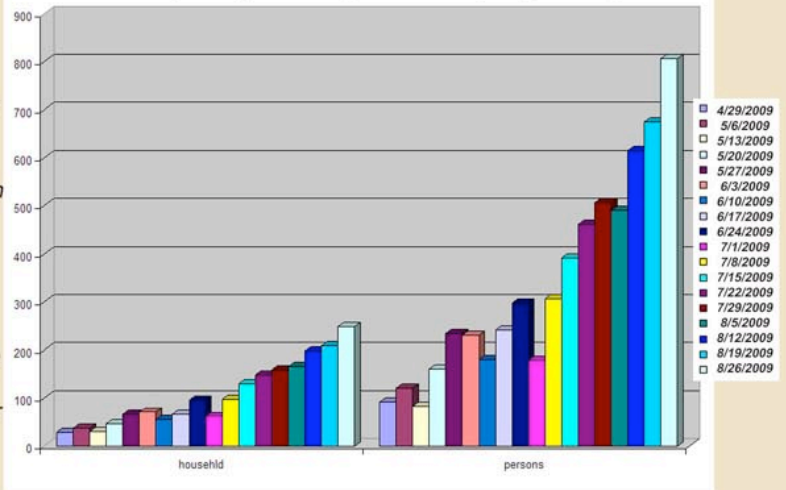
The initial training for member agencies consists of three weeks of classes which cover many topics ranging from Orientation to the GCFD, Safe Food Practices, dealing with patron issues, ordering food and loading your van. I am in the process of developing a training video for volunteers that will cover many of these topics as well as issues related specifically to Hillside practices and procedures. Hopefully, this will be completed within the month and ready for distribution.

Hillside Food Pantry is blessed to have a great group of staff and volunteers who make each day successful. Although the actual days and hours of operation are twice weekly, staff and volunteers are busy every day pick up food, sorting stock and making trips to GCFD. We are constantly striving to improve the process so that patron and staff alike will have a great experience of serving or receiving and being blessed by the love of Christ.

Blessings

Pastor Mark Taylor

## Food Pantry Usage Through Week 18, August 26, 2009



### Usage Of The Pantry

Through the end of August, the pantry has been officially opened for 18 weeks. We have served over 6000 people in that time frame! The demand keeps growing. In the month of August, we averaged serving over two hundred families per week. Wednesday sees the highest traffic volume to the pantry, and on the last Wednesday of August, we served 452 people consisting of 139 households. We continue to praise God for our ability to serve those in need. Please keep Hillside Food Pantry in your prayers!

**The food pantry is getting great exposure through local newspapers. Check out the stories on the link in the email!**

### Thank You To Our Volunteers!

By Maiya Lueptow

In any church ministry there are many people to thank. So many have helped in enormous ways. So many have helped in seemingly small ways that are also significant and appreciated. Not all can be acknowledged here, but we would like to highlight a few volunteers in each issue of our newsletter as a token of our appreciation for all who have helped make the food pantry ministry such a success.

Valerie Veneziano was looking for a church as well as an opportunity to serve the community. As God would have it, the first time she visited Hillside Church was the Sunday that the plan for the Hillside Community Food Pantry was unveiled and presented to the congregation. Valerie, who works in database management, was quick to volunteer to design and help manage the food pantry ministry database. She has typed in every name and address for every person served by the food pantry, along with the dates they've come to pickup food, and organized all of that information so we can retrieve it in any number of ways to track our growth. Thanks to Valerie, Pastor Maiya won't be doing it all on paper! Thank you, everyone for being part of our team and helping us follow God's call to serve the community He's placed us in and demonstrate His love and provision in such a tangible way.



Mike Albano picking up from the GCFD Agency Mart August 26th

To Volunteer contact Rev. Maiya Lueptow – [maiya.lueptow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maiya.lueptow@sbcglobal.net)