

Judy's Pantry
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September 10, 2015

Scott Irving, President
South Portland-Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club
PO Box 6266
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Dear Scott and members of the Rotary Club,

What an extraordinary evening it was for me as well as Judy's Pantry on Wednesday! I was both humbled and greatly honored to receive the Paul Harris Fellow award - I know from several family members who were and are long-time Rotarians that this is indeed a special honor. I have always tried to make whatever community I have lived in a 'better place' through community service of one form or another so I fully respect and have tried to live Rotary's motto of 'Service Above Self'.

Secondly, on behalf of all those who help make Judy's Pantry successful, I thank you for your extraordinarily generous donation in the amount of \$2000 (check #1820) in support of our efforts to help Cape residents with limited resources feed themselves and their families with healthy, locally grown produce and other non-perishable food.

As I outlined on Wednesday night, the produce is provided by the Cape Community Gardens as part of the Maine Harvest for Hunger program, generous Cape farmers, and residents who share from their own home gardens. During the 2014 growing season, the pantry offered over 6700 pounds of produce at the weekly pantry days and we are off to a strong start in 2015 with 2500 pounds offered so far. In addition to the produce, the pantry offers a variety of non-perishable food to assist families with their food needs throughout the year. The pantry, located at the Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church, is open twice a month (January through June) on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (3:00 to 5:00) and weekly during the growing season also on Tuesdays. If anyone would like to see the pantry in operation, we would welcome visitors - the best time to come is while the volunteers are setting up the pantry between 2:00 and 3:00 on Tuesdays. Please contact me in advance if you'd like to come in case there are any schedule changes.

Your financial support will help with purchases of non-perishables when food donations run low. We regularly offer a variety of items including tuna fish and other canned meats, peanut butter, pasta and sauce, hearty soups, healthy cereals, baked beans, rice and other grains, canned fruit and applesauce. The pantry serves about 30 households each week and the number of family members served is now over 100 with over 50 children in those households. If you know of families or individuals who might need this help, we would welcome new participants. The participants are most appreciative and grateful for this help. They include those who have lost jobs, some with very high medical expenses, families with young children, and seniors and the disabled living on fixed incomes. Others have low wage jobs that don't allow them to adequately feed their families or single parents supporting several children.

In the words of one of the pantry participants, "Thank you so much to the individuals and organizations who, through donations of money and food items, have made possible the year-round availability of non-perishable food staples. How uplifting it was to be able to come to the pantry and find so many essential items and treats! With the cost of food climbing all the time, this makes a tremendous difference to those of us struggling to pay our bills."

Thank you again for your exceedingly generous support.

Gratefully yours,

Nancy Miles

Nancy Miles
Pantry Coordinator