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Hunger Shouldn't Be an Option



## A spring celebration -- Happy Passover from the Pantry

The Jewish holiday of Passover begins at sundown on April 18th. It commemorates the story of the Exodus, in which the ancient Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. Once freed, it is said that they left in such a hurry that they could not wait for bread to rise. In commemoration, for the duration of Passover no leavened bread is eaten, for which reason it is called "The Festival of the Unleavened Bread (matzoh)."

During Passover, Jews around the world reflect on what freedom truly means, not only for our ancestors, but also for all people across all ages and in our own time. Freedom from hunger is brought to the forefront when we say at the Passover seder, "Let all who are hungry enter and eat."

In our world, hunger does not just affect one culture or one religion, and all people of faith are obligated to work toward ending hunger. Although our religious stories vary, the teachings about helping others are quite similar. With your help, we are working hard every day to help all those who are hungry right here in our community.

At Passover, we ensure that our Jewish clients are able to celebrate Passover. Please consider making a monetary contribution or donating any of the following food items: matzo, parsley, horseradish, gefilte fish, matzo ball soup, applesauce, mandarin oranges, cake mixes, macaroons, grape juice, eggs and fresh vegetables.

*The Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry will be closed in observance of Passover from Tuesday, April 19 through Tuesday, April 26 (we will reopen Wednesday, April 27). Please call the Hunger Services Network at 412.681.1121 for emergency food assistance during this time. For other social service needs, please call Jewish Family & Children's Service at 412.422.7200.*



April 2011

### In This Issue

[A spring celebration -- Happy Passover from the Pantry](#)

[Neighborhood schools help our Pantry](#)

[County grant helps to fund Pantry improvements](#)

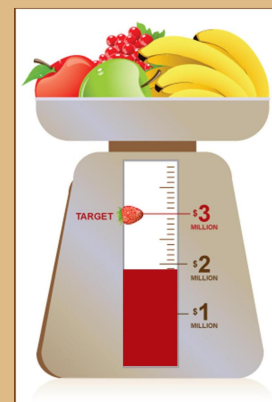
[Check your mailbox: Donating to the Pantry](#)

[Calling all volunteers](#)

For every \$18 you donate, the Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry can purchase \$72 of food for clients.



### Endowment Campaign at \$1.9 million and growing!



Create a legacy to end hunger in our community. Establish an endowment or make a charitable bequest to help ensure we can continue to provide food and supportive services to our community's most vulnerable. Contact [Barry Rudej](#), our development

*Pantry volunteer David Brinn  
stocks horseradish in  
preparation for Passover.*

## Neighborhood schools help our Pantry

On most Fridays since November, our Pantry welcomes Mrs. Barnes' autistic support class from Pittsburgh Greenfield K-8. This extraordinary group of volunteers -- all boys in grades six through eight, with their teachers -- regularly unpack bulk groceries, stock the shelves, sort fresh produce and assemble shopping bags. They are up for most anything and take their weekly commitment to heart. One of the students nicknamed the class the "Healthy Helping Hands." They really know how we're committed to nutrition for our Pantry clients!

We are extremely proud of and thankful for their dedication and hard work. It's true that their visit is one of best times at the Pantry each week. This month the class also is coordinating a school-wide drive to collect pet food for our Pantry. Good luck boys!



We also want to thank Hillel Academy, who coordinated the donation of 30 Purim baskets by encouraging people to choose donation as an option for their fundraiser. How wonderful that our clients could enjoy this Jewish holiday's tradition of gifts of food!

The Hillel high school girls who delivered the donated baskets and additional fruit stayed to volunteer at the Pantry, too. We love how engaged young people are in fighting hunger in Squirrel Hill and beyond!

officer, at 412.422.7200  
for more information.



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Squirrel Hill Community  
Food Pantry



Would you like to know  
what's happening at  
the Pantry's parent  
organization, JF&CS?

Signup for our brief  
newsletter and get  
JF&CS news  
delivered weekly to your  
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## County grant helps to fund Pantry improvements

Last month, the Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County Community Infrastructure & Tourism Fund, which is financed by gaming money, awarded our Pantry a \$200,000 grant to help pay for the improvements made when we moved to our new location. In our larger location on Hazelwood Avenue, we can better serve the growing number of people who need our help. In fact we've served 109 new families since our November opening.

This grant goes a long way in financing our improvements, but we still count on the support of committed donors and volunteers like you. Many thanks for all that you do.



*A great group of helping hands at the Pantry for a packing session -- photo courtesy of Anna Lee-Fields.*

## Check your mailbox: Donating to the Pantry

You already may have received your Squirrel Hill Community Food Pantry appeal in the mail this past week. For this special annual appeal, we partner with the Jewish Federation of Greater Pittsburgh

to allow us to reach a much larger group of possible donors. And, we are fortunate to be among the organizations eligible for the Feinstein Foundation challenge grant. This means that the more money and food drive donations we raise before the end of April, the larger percentage of the \$1 million grant our Pantry receives. With this added incentive, please take the opportunity to make a generous contribution to help feed those families who need a little extra help.

If you'd like to donate to the Pantry, you can do so [online](#) via our annual campaign, Fresh Produce initiative or tribute fund in honor or memory of someone special. To host a traditional food drive using one of our yellow collection barrels, please [contact us](#) for more information.

***What do we need this month?*** The April Food of the Month is cold cereal.



Remember the Pantry when you're doing your shopping and spot a "Buy one, get one free" - consider keeping one for your family and donating the other! Not sure what foods the Pantry needs? Refer to our [Pantry Shopping List](#).

Another way to donate to the Pantry is through our *Centerpieces for Tzedakah* program. You can rent our food baskets in lieu of flowers as celebration centerpieces and bimah baskets, and your tax-deductible donation helps to feed individuals and families that rely on the Pantry. The baskets are decorated with beautiful bows in the colors of your choice, and each has a card attached acknowledging your support. Some *Centerpieces for Tzedakah* patrons supply their own bows or have their baskets decorated by florists or other party professionals. It's an easy, meaningful way to add significance to your special occasion. [Contact us](#) for more information or to place an order.



Calling all volunteers

Individual volunteers, schools and community groups are vital parts of our Pantry's operation. Prior training is not required for most volunteer opportunities. We just are looking for committed and enthusiastic individuals, who have some free time and want to help. Children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Since many of the duties require multiple people, this is a great opportunity to spend some quality time with your family, friends or religious group, for example, while providing an essential service to our community's most vulnerable.

We need your help to:

- Pack client bags - groups of people to pack bags in an assembly line for our homebound clients and seniors (25-30 volunteers monthly). *We are filled through June 2011 for this task, but please [contact us](#) to discuss other volunteer opportunities for your group.*
- Deliver to clients - volunteers with valid driver's licenses to deliver food to homebound clients and seniors (2-4 volunteers weekly)
- Sort donations - weigh and sort food donations (4-5 volunteers weekly)
- Pack produce and bulk food - assist with packaging bulk items into client portions (8-10 volunteers weekly)
- Drop-off recycling - volunteers with valid driver's licenses to recycle our cardboard boxes (2-3 volunteers weekly)
- Checkout clients - helping clients pack their bags after shopping (2 volunteers daily)
- Provide client shopping assistance - aid clients with shopping options (2-4 volunteers daily)
- Stock shelves - restock shelves as inventory gets low (2-4 volunteers daily)
- Train other volunteers - seasoned volunteers to provide orientation and training for new volunteers

If you are interested in volunteering and would like more information, please [contact us](#). We know that you will enjoy the experience and leave with a sense of pride in our community's commitment to ensure no neighbor goes hungry.

#### **Pantry Hours**

Monday: 9:00am - 12:30pm (and 5:00 - 7:00pm by appointment only)

Tuesday: 9:00am - 12:30pm and 1:30 - 3:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am - 12:30pm

Thursday: 9:00am - 12:30pm and 1:30 - 3:00pm

Friday: 9:00am - 12:30pm

One Sunday a month by appointment only

*Please contact the Pantry at  
412-421-2708*

*for appointments outside of the normal business hours.*

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