



Cincinnati's Oldest Soup Kitchen

Over-The-Rhine Kitchen
Walnut Hills Kitchen
Walnut Hills Pantry

Nourishing the Body, Mind, and Spirit



Kitchen Bites and Pantry Delites Sept 2008

Summer Happenings!

During the summer the staff and volunteers at the Kitchens and Pantry took some well-deserved vacation from cooking, but primarily ensured new equipment was installed and our building maintenance was completed. Floors were refinished at both Kitchens and Pantry. Additionally, we instituted two, new improvements at the pantry to streamline:

- the processes volunteers use in packing grocery bags (by reconfiguring pantry shelving)
- the grocery bag receipt process, reducing waiting time for our pantry guests

We would like to credit, our summer volunteers, **Robert Lucas and Maggie Lloyd**, for the new pantry shelving set-up and **Roselyn Ridley**, a new pantry volunteer, for the improved grocery bag receipt process!

Renovations of the new Kitchen and Pantry offices continued throughout July at Walnut Hills. Volunteers from **General Electric, MI/ES Department**, under the supervision of **Tim Kinne**, tore out all the existing walls and marked locations for the new offices. Document storage shelves are now in place and a deadbolt lock was installed on the office entrance door. Thank you, GE Aviation Engineers!

We are on track to serve nearly 170,000 meals in 2008, a 24% increase from 2007. Pantry needs are also up 45%; 6402 people received groceries through July 2008! Please continue or consider increasing your support. In order to minimize operating expenses, we employ only a handful of paid staff and we rely on over **14,000 volunteer hours**. Our terrific volunteers pick up food, prepare meals, serve food, clean up, and, at the pantry, pack and hand out grocery bags. We receive generous food donations from many sources, but private funding supplies the majority of our needs.

We're Cookin' Now

Thank you to **Elaine and Dave Davis** who supplied our Wish for funds to install the stove recently gifted to the Walnut Hills Kitchen by the **Benedictine Sisters of St. Walburg Monastery**. The Davis' bless us doubly by also sponsoring four Saturdays each year at the Walnut Hills Kitchen! Our brand new stove is an Imperial 60" commercial gas range with 10 burners and two ovens. A big thank you also to **Richard Behrman of Restaurant Depot** for assisting with this purchase.

Weekend Warriors:

Please look for the memo sent to all weekend sponsors letting everyone know how to care for our lovely new stove ♥



Kitchen Snippets - Quotes from Volunteers

Nancy Keating, volunteer for 24 years, "We hope they enjoy the food as much as we enjoy preparing it. It's like going to cooking school."

Dolores Goldfinger, volunteer for 26 years, "I enjoy talking with the guests. I like watching the children grow up and I enjoy working with the volunteers and staff."

Bill Hoffman, volunteer for 18 years, "I enjoy meeting the people and being involved in something that I feel is worthwhile."

Ron Berry, volunteer for 2 months, "I think you guys do a special job at the OTR and WH Kitchen. You provide your guests with a good, hot meal and plenty of love for individuals who are at the bottom rung of our society."

IN MEMORIAM

On July 28, Anthony Cox, a volunteer at the Over-The-Rhine Kitchen, passed away after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage in January. Patricia Wakim, Director of the Kitchens and Pantry, was honored at the funeral to be able to share Anthony's positive impact on the Kitchen and his unwavering commitment over the past 18 years. Our prayers are with the Cox family at this sad time.

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Bags of Thanks

♥ **Youth from the Kicked Up Bible School at St. Susanna Catholic Church** in Mason volunteered at both Kitchens. They also hosted a food drive scavenger hunt throughout Mason neighborhoods then delivered the food items to the pantry. We are very grateful to St. Susanna for choosing our pantry for this food drive that has taken place for two consecutive years!

- ♥ **Larry Rover, Manager of Cincinnati Children's Hospital Commissary**, donated approximately 10 cases of individually packaged microwave sandwiches. These tasty sandwiches were a great addition to the pantry bags!
- ♥ Bags of thanks to **Richard Flanagan**, General Manager of **Trader Joe's** in Kenwood. Twice this year Richard generously donated 300 shopping bags. These bags are great for guests because they have a sturdy handle.
- ♥ Thank you to **Greg Frank** for fulfilling a Wish List item in the last newsletter for a Tuesday driver. Greg, retired from Hamilton County MRDD, has become invaluable, doing whatever is needed: fixing items, picking up donations, assisting with cooking at the Kitchens, serving and cleaning up. Giant kudos to Greg for his selfless work on our behalf!
- ♥ **Presto Foods** in Monroe, OH donated over \$2,600 worth of flour, mozzarella cheese, bacon, pepperoni, salad dressings, cooking oil, and supplies, plus 400 lbs. of dry pasta! Our speedy thanks to **Marilyn McCoy!**
- ♥ **Ed Schweinefus** of **JTM Food Group** in Harrison generously donated 91 cases of some of their most popular foods: meatballs, taco filling, macaroni and cheese, and hoagie buns. Their regular donations continue to supplement our pantry bags. Since much of JTM's food is pre-packaged and labeled, it is very easy to tuck into pantry bags and helps our guests know they are getting a nutritious, delicious product!
- ♥ It was an Olympic event when **Tony Jones and members of TJ's Basketball League** hosted an Italian feast at the Walnut Hills Kitchen. The league raised money throughout the season to purchase all the food and supplies for the meal. See pictures of the day's events; link to their website at www.tjsummerbasketballleague.com
- ♥ Thank you to **Larry Garcia** at **Zwanenberg Food Group** who donated 316 cases of canned hams – a perfect, shelf stable product for our pantry bags. We are very excited about our new friends, Zwanenberg Food Group!
- ♥ A bear hug to **Roseanne Barone**, secretary of **St. Rose Church**, who hosted a Toy Drive, gathering small stuffed animals for children who come to the pantry with their parents. Twice we have received bags of toys from St. Rose!
- ♥ **Western Hills and Colerain Best Buy employees** volunteered at the OTR kitchen. Thank you to coordinators **Catherine (Cat) Holmes** and **Kim Jones**. Both Best Buy store's "give back programs" also support us monetarily.
- ♥ Thank you to **Bill Tuttle** at **Minuteman Press** for printing our colorful newsletters at a deep discount. Staying connected with all our supporters, by email or postal mail, is so very critical for us. We salute you, Minuteman Press!

Thank You

Weekday Volunteers!

We could not run the kitchens and pantry without our wonderful volunteers!

Valerie Badinghaus
Tom Celestin
Ruth Conway
Diane Coors
Greg Frank
Joe Grever
Dolores Goldfinger
Patsy Grote
Kathy Gallagher
Linda Grypp
Jeanne Gudmens

Germaine Hale
Bill Hoffman
Nancy Keating
Bill Kenny
Mary Leach
Carol Mackey
Joe Miller
Virgil Oglesby
Charlie Plummer
Roselyn Ridley
Tom Roessner
Joyce Rohan
Ann Rooney
Rachel Rosen
Jean Ryan
Donna Salmon
Harold Shackelford
Pete Sorrentino

Diane Sweeny
Zack Tran
Donna Webber
Fred Wright
Larry & Mary Ziegler



Wish List

- Floor buffer for the WH Kitchen. Cost: \$994
- Skilled/experienced artist to refresh building murals at both locations.
- Boxes of gallon, zip top bags for use at the pantry. We use about 200 each week.
- Boxes of quart, zip top bags for use at the pantry. We use about 200 each week.
- 50 commercial food storage containers with air tight lids (14" x 10" x 5" deep) to store leftovers at the Kitchens. Cost: \$7 each
- Coffee grinder for WH Kitchen. Cost: \$64
- 12 durable aprons to protect our cooks at both Kitchens. Cost: \$8 each

Easy, Secure Ways to Support the Kitchens & Pantry:

- ✓ Mail a check to P.O. Box 6045, Cincinnati, OH 45206
- ✓ Secure donation thru www.overtherhinekitchen.org (click on Make A Donation)
- ✓ Call 513-961-1983, ext 2, for gifts of food, supplies, or equipment

