

Affton Christian Food Pantry
P.O. Box 6944
Affton, MO 63123
(314) 580-3138

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Our Mission:

To live the Christian principles of our member churches by providing a continuous and reliable source of food and assistance to those in need in the Affton community.

Together, we can make a difference!

Get Involved... Stay Informed

There are many ways you can get involved and help further our mission:

1. Organize a food drive in your school, church, or workplace... help us **Fill the Van!**
2. Volunteer with us... once a month or once a week... we are always happy for the help!
3. Make a donation or support one of our fundraisers, like our **April 16 Dinner Auction.**
4. "Like" us on Facebook to stay on top of the latest happenings at ACFP.
5. Visit our website often... <http://AfftonChristianFoodPantry.com>



Take Credit Where It's Due

The Missouri Food Pantry Tax Credits are available again in 2015! Any donation of food or money to the Affton Christian Food Pantry **made before December 31, 2015** can qualify for a **50% tax credit**, up to \$2,500 annually.

Your donations are a big help to us! Let the state help you help us!

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Can you help us throughout the year?

See inside for information about our "**A Place at the Table**" monthly giving program!



# Affton Christian Food Pantry

## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

**FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, JENNIFER MEEHAN**

Greetings and blessings to you and your family this holiday season! It is my deep honor to serve as the Executive Director for the Affton Christian Food Pantry. My son, Patrick, and I started volunteering here in the fall of 2008; today, I consider the ACFP to be an extension of my own family.



The past year has been a busy one. **Eden United Church of Christ** joined us, bringing our Member Churches to 15. We continued the **Brown Bag** program for our school-aged children, and added a **Christmas Boutique** for all of our families in December.

Among the most successful of our initiatives this year was our **Fill the Van** program, where we brought our van to you – area businesses and our Member Churches -- and **you** filled the van with the food and personal care items we needed most!

As we look to the year ahead, **I am grateful for you**, our dedicated and faithful supporters. We could not serve families in need without your help, your prayers, your donations, and your presence! May God bless you all abundantly in the coming year!

**MEMBER CHURCHES**

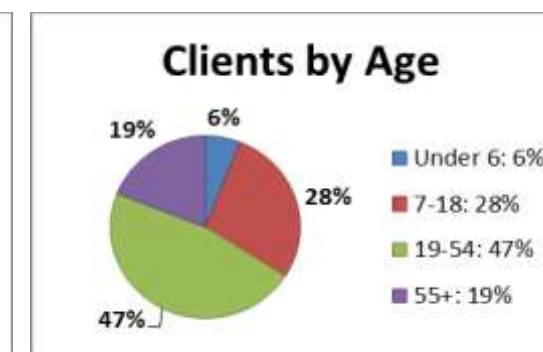
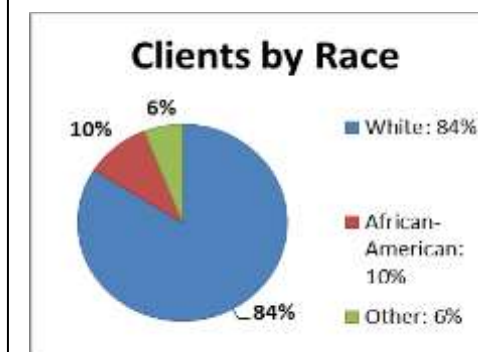
- AFFTON CHRISTIAN
- AFFTON PRESBYTERIAN
- CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION-LUTHERAN
- CURE OF ARS
- EDEN U.C.C.
- NEW APOSTOLIC
- OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE
- ROOFTOP
- SALEM LUTHERAN
- SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS
- ST. DOMINIC SAVIO
- ST. GEORGE
- ST. MARK
- ST. SIMON THE APOSTLE
- ZION METHODIST

**Who We Serve - At A Glance**

**FY 2015**

**Client Family Visits: 3,975**

**Individuals Fed: 9,869**

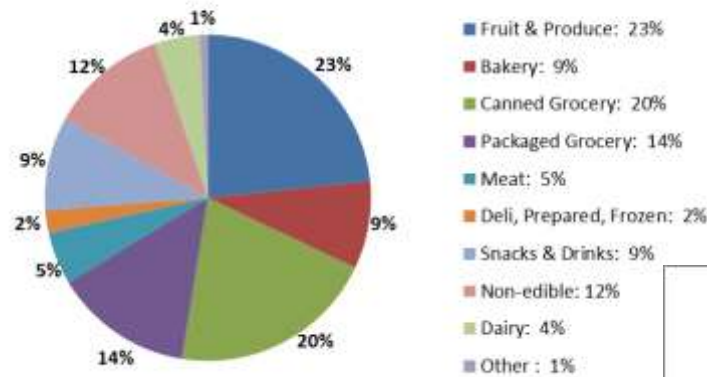


*Together, we can make a difference!*

## How We Help

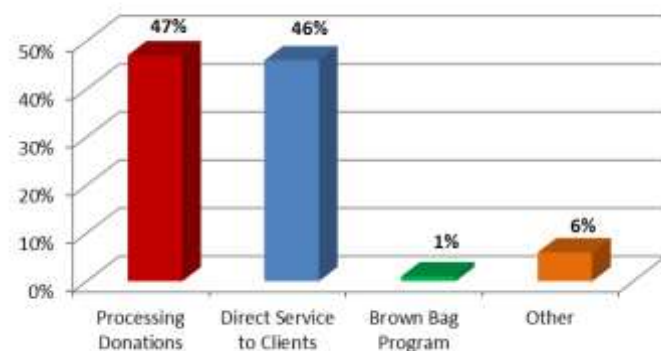
How did we feed nearly 10,000 people this past year? Well, we definitely had some help!

### Food Distributed by Category



In all, we gave away more than **220,000 items** to our families, and plus an **additional 163,000** through the Brown Bag program.

### Volunteer Hours by Job



To do this, we needed **225 volunteers**, working **more than 5,600 hours**.

**Thank you** to all who share your talents so freely with us! **We truly could not do it without you!**

## Seniors Helping Seniors Helping Seniors



No, that wasn't a typo. This fall, we have a new partnership we're thrilled to share with you! Staff, families and Senior Citizen residents at **Mother of Perpetual Help Assisted Living** on Watson Road in Shrewsbury are teaming up with area high school seniors to bless the Senior Citizens who are clients at the food pantry!

After collecting personal care items and small gifts, the Senior Residents at MOPH Assisted Living wrapped Christmas gift bags for the seniors in our program. Then, several area high school seniors collected the gift bags and delivered them to the ACFP, for distribution in early December. In all, the MOPH and high school Seniors are blessing 100 ACFP Seniors with a little extra cheer this Christmas! **Thank you to all who organized and contributed to this special program!**

*Pictured: Vianney Senior Tom Bakersmith with MOPH resident, former ACFP volunteer, and his grandma, Marie Merlotti*

## A Place at the Table

In the past year, dozens of you have joined us with a monthly gift! **Thank you!** Your commitment helps us budget for and purchase food and personal care items as needed throughout the year.

If you have not yet made a monthly commitment, will you please consider doing so? Help us make sure there is "**a place at the table**" for every hungry person in Affton! There's a level for every budget...and every gift counts!

**The Brown Bag Brigade: \$5 a month** funds 1 student in the Brown Bag program for a year.

**The Breakfast Club: \$10 a month** provides a selection of breakfast items monthly.

**The Lunch Bunch: \$25 a month** makes sure we have plenty of nutritious lunch options.

**The Daily Diner: \$50 a month** provides whole, simple suppers for our clients.

**The Monthly Meal Deal: \$100 a month** helps us feed a family of 4 for an entire month!

You may make your monthly donation by mailing a check to our office, or via credit card using the secure link on our website: [AfftonChristianFoodPantry.com](http://AfftonChristianFoodPantry.com).

**Please help us set "A Place at the Table" for every hungry person in Affton!**

## Board of Directors

The Affton Christian Food Pantry is steered by a volunteer Board of Directors, each representing a member church. Currently, the Board of Directors has eighteen members:

| Name                        | Title          | Church Affiliation                 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| Terry Schermann             | President      | Cure of Ars                        |
| Judy Hantak                 | Vice President | Our Lady of Providence             |
| Mary Wolfram                | Secretary      | Salem Lutheran                     |
| Mark Kamil                  | Treasurer      | Rooftop                            |
| Charles Heinzman            | Representative | Affton Christian                   |
| Suzanne Baybo               | Representative | Affton Presbyterian                |
| Pastor David Pelsue         | Representative | Church of the Reformation-Lutheran |
| Pastor Paul Porter          | Representative | Eden United Church of Christ       |
| Dennis Eckert               | Representative | New Apostolic                      |
| Dennis Jordan               | Representative | Our Lady of Providence             |
| Brett Delmez                | Representative | Rooftop                            |
| Gene Murphy/Melanie Fechter | Representative | Seven Holy Founders                |
| Rebecca Mohs                | Representative | St. Dominic Savio                  |
| Michael Cady                | Representative | St. George                         |
| Bobbie Laury                | Representative | St. Mark                           |
| Bob Stein                   | Representative | St. Simon the Apostle              |
| Ron White                   | Representative | Zion Methodist                     |

The Board meets every-other month, with committee meetings occurring in alternate months. The role of the Board of Directors is to provide oversight of the ACFP with regards to operations and finances, and to support the efforts of the Executive Director, Pantry staff, and volunteers.

## A Merry Little Christmas

Thanks to our generous donors, and to Board Member, **Suzanne Baybo** and folks from **Affton Presbyterian Church**, our clients and their families will have a little something special under their trees this Christmas.



We are hosting our first-ever “**Christmas Boutique**” for our families.

Children under 18 will “shop” in the Boutique with a list of family members’ names and a volunteer to help them wrap their selections. Families who do not have younger children will also have the chance to shop for a few gifts. All items were donated by folks who want to make sure every family’s Christmas is a little more “merry” this year. **Thank you** to all who made this possible for our families!

## A Taste of Healthy Eating



For some of our clients, **Miss Andrea** is the best part of visiting the ACFP. Many times over the past year, Andrea used items we have in abundance to cook up some tasty and healthy recipes. With a warm smile, she offers food tastings, nutrition information, and recipe cards.

Whether she’s making **kale-strawberry salad** with fresh kale in July, or **pumpkin-stuffed shells** in November,

Andrea really knows how to serve up nutrition in a tasty package! Andrea comes to us through a partnership with the **Missouri Extension Service**, a department of the University of Missouri.

## Save the Date... April 16, 2016

Last April, we held our first **Dinner Auction**, and it was a rousing success. The evening was filled with fun, great music, an entertaining emcee from “Down Under,” and a unique selection of auction baskets and oral auction items.

We are thrilled to announce that **Pietro’s Restaurant** on Watson Road in south city will once again host our **2016 Dinner Auction**. Mark your calendars now! You don’t want to miss out on this Night to Remember, **Saturday, April 16, 2016**.



## Little Brown Bag... BIG Difference

For the second year in a row, we supplied families with school-age children a supplemental “**Brown Bag**” each visit during spring break, summer, and Christmas break. These “Brown Bags” replace the breakfasts and lunches normally provided to students in our program through the Federal School Lunch program. When school breaks hit, families are faced with providing an extra 10 meals per week for each of their children.

**Kohl’s** department store partnered with us this year, sending a crew to fill **100+ Brown Bags** with more than **163,000 items** over 7 visits (with **Cure of Ars** picking up the 8<sup>th</sup> fill!). In addition to cereal, oatmeal, kid-friendly lunches and snacks, we filled the bags with toothbrushes and toothpaste, sunglasses, hand sanitizer, and small treats.



Kids love to get the bags, always digging right in to see what’s waiting for them. But, it’s the relief in the parents’ eyes that tells us the program meets a very important need for our families.

**Thank you, all**, who donated items specifically to the Brown Bag program, who support it financially, and especially those who volunteer to fill the bags for our students!

## Fill the Van

In January 2015, **Matt Miller** of **Send Me St. Louis**, a ministry of the **Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis**, conducted an “**Asset Mapping**” day for our Board, some volunteers, and supporters. As a result of the exercises that day, “**Fill the Van**,” was born to meet two important needs: 1) spread the word in the community about the ACFP and 2) keep our shelves full all year long.



Headed by Board Member, **Denny Eckert (New Apostolic Church)**, Fill the Van was off and running by late March. As of the end of October, this initiative, which brought our van to area churches and businesses for on-the-spot food drives, collected more than 14,000 items (food and personal care) and over \$1,200 in cash!

Keep your eyes out for our van...coming soon to a parking lot near you!

## MVPs

We could not operate without the support from corporations and foundations. In the past year, we received grants from these

### Most Valuable Partners:

*100+ Women Who Care*

*Annual Catholic Appeal*

*Concordia Publishing*

*Greater St. Louis Regional Business Council*

*Kohl's*

*Meals on Wheels of Greater St. Louis*

*Mid-America Transplant Services*

*St. Anthony's Physician Ambassadors*

*Stupp Bros. Foundation*

*Walter E. Hoestette Foundation*

**THANK YOU!**

## A "Soup-er" Night Out

Don't miss out on one of our favorite annual events! Friday night, **February 5, 2016**, the **Bayless High School Bronchos** will again host the "**Souper Bowl for Hunger**" at the St. George Parish Center.

In preparation for the big game, the art students are **hand-painting bowls** and the culinary students are perfecting their recipes. Your **\$5 donation** gets you a bowl of soup or chili, a roll, and a drink.

Stop on by between **5-8pm** to hear some live music, bid on hand-painted bowls, and support the ACFP!



## Health Fair Provides Flu Shots, Helmets and More!

Led by our Board President, **Terry Schermann (Cure of Ars)**, in conjunction with **Dr. Dana Galbraith**, and the support of the **St. Anthony's Charitable Foundation Physician Ambassadors**, ACFP holds a Community Health Fair each fall.

The fair always offers free flu shots and a variety of health screenings for all who attend. New this year, in partnership with **Helmets First** and **Cardinal Glennon Safe Kids**, we offered free bike helmets to all the kids who attended, with free fittings right on-site!



The fair allows us to care for the whole health of our clients and their families. Year-round, we make an effort to help our clients improve their health by providing nutrition information, healthy recipes, and low-sugar and low-sodium foods on a special "**Wellness**" shelf.



**Thank You to everyone who collected food for us this year! You made a measurable difference for us!**

- |                                         |                                      |                               |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Ace Hardware                            | Holy Cross Academy                   | Salvation Army                |
| Affton Chamber of Commerce              | Holy Redeemer Catholic Church        | Schnucks                      |
| Affton Christian Church                 | Jimmy John's                         | Scrubs & Beyond               |
| Affton Community Volunteer Organization | Johnny Mac's Sporting Goods          | Seven Holy Founders           |
| Affton Elks Lodge #2635                 | Knights of Columbus                  | Shop N Save                   |
| Affton Presbyterian Church              | Knights of Columbus Ladies Aux       | St. Agatha's Catholic Church  |
| Affton Parent Association               | Kuhlmann Design Group                | St. Anthony's Family Medicine |
| Affton School District                  | Little Caesars Pizza                 | St. Anthony's Hospital        |
| Aldi                                    | Little Yellow Bus                    | St. Dominic Savio             |
| American Eagle Credit Union             | Loaves & Fishes                      | St. George 50+                |
| Arsenal Credit Union                    | Lutheran South Garden                | St. George Church             |
| Bayless School District                 | Lutheran High School South           | St. Louis Bread Company       |
| Bayless Girl Scouts                     | Lutheran Women's Missionary League   | St. Louis Children's Hospital |
| Bishop DuBourg High School              | Morehouse                            | St. Lucas UCC                 |
| Centimark Corporation                   | MO Dept. of Health & Senior Services | St. Mark Church               |
| Charity Patch                           | New Apostolic Church                 | St. Simon the Apostle Church  |
| Club Fitness                            | Our Lady of Sorrows Church           | St. Vincent de Paul Society   |
| Con Agra                                | Our Lady of Sorrows Garden           | State Farm: Dane Huxel        |
| Cor Jesu Academy                        | Our Lady of Providence               | Ted Drewes                    |
| Cure of Ars Catholic Church             | Pennies in Your Pocket               | The Medicine Shoppe           |
| Eagle Bank                              | Polish Falcons                       | Tyson Foods                   |
| Eden United Church of Christ            | Red Cross                            | US Bank                       |
| Girl Scouts - St. Dominic Savio         | Rollercade                           | Villages at Mackenzie Place   |
| Great Clips - Affton                    | Reformation Lutheran                 | Warner's Warm-up              |
| Great Clips - Bayless                   | Rooftop Church                       | Webster Gardens Lutheran      |
| Grow to Give Garden                     | Rose Acre Farms                      | Weight Watchers               |
| Hartland Industries                     | Salem Altar Guild                    | West County Dance Club        |
| Head Start                              | Salem Lutheran Church                | Willert Home Products, Inc.   |
| HD Supply Waterworks                    |                                      | Zion Methodist                |

**Plus hundreds of individual contributions from all of you!**

**We could not feed so many without you!**

**THANK YOU!!!!**