

Affton Christian Food Pantry  
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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!*

**No Kid Hungry...Here in Affton**



Again this year, we provided breakfasts and lunches to the school children in our program through our **Brown Bag** program. This fills in the gap left when school is out.

Thank you to the volunteers from Kohls in Creve Coeur and Cure of Ars Catholic Church who filled the bags all summer, ensuring that, in Affton, summer equals fun – not hunger!



**The POWER of the FLOWER**

Local businesses are joining us in fighting hunger! **Ace Hardware** across from Grasso Plaza is now a permanent drop site for food and cash donations. This spring, **Great Clips** in the Affton Plaza and on Bayless competed in the **Power of the Flower** contest...raising both funds and awareness in our community! Thank you to Board V. P., **Judy Hantak** (Our Lady of Providence) for heading up the Business Outreach program!

**A Cup of Tea and a Food Pantry**

About 2 dozen women and girls spent a Saturday morning painting a cup of tea to help feed the hungry. Pinot's Palette in Webster Groves hosted this fun and unique fundraiser for us!

Thanks to Claire Patterson for organizing, and to all who attended!



**You can help make sure that everyone in Affton has A Place at the Table**

Our monthly giving program ensures a steady stream of income, allowing us to plan purchases and keep the shelves stocked.

- \$ 5 – Brown Bag Brigade
- \$ 10 – The Breakfast Club
- \$ 25 – The Lunch Bunch
- \$ 50 – The Daily Diner
- \$ 100 – The Meal Deal

Sign up is easy... see our website:  
**AfftonChristianFoodPantry.com**



# Affton Christian Food Pantry

**SUMMER 2015**

**WELCOME, EDEN U.C.C.!**



We are thrilled to welcome our 15<sup>th</sup> Member Church to the Affton Christian Food Pantry family! **Eden United Church of Christ**, under the leadership of Pastor Paul Porter, joined the ACFP in the beginning of March 2015.

With the addition of Eden, we will be better positioned to serve hungry families in Affton. Our Member Churches provide oversight of our operations through our Board of Directors, and they are a regular source of food drives, funding, and volunteers.

Currently, our Member Churches provide volunteer crews to operate the pantry fully on Mondays and Thursdays, and individual volunteers to staff the pantry on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Partnering with ACFP allows local churches to express their Gospel values with their hands and feet, while strengthening our reach in the community. It is, truly, a win-win situation for us and for our church communities! **Welcome, Eden!**

**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

**Fill the Van**



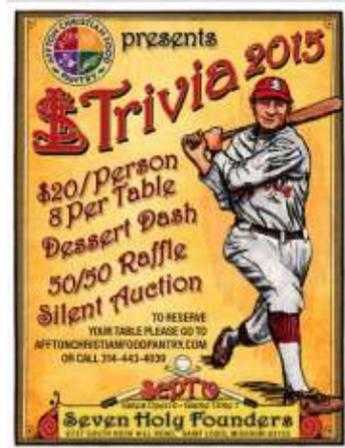
Back in January, our friends at **Send Me St. Louis** ran an Asset Mapping exercise for our Board and volunteer leadership. As a result, "**Fill the Van**" was born... an opportunity for our churches (and area schools and businesses) to get hands-on in helping us collect food and raise funds.

Since March, our van has been seen at many of our Member Churches, gathering donations and spreading the word about the ACFP. By the end of July, the "**Fill the Van**" program had collected more than 10,000 food items, and over \$700 in cash donations.

For the first time in the history of the ACFP, we are not facing bare shelves all summer long. Thank you to Board member, **Denny Eckert** (New Apostolic Church) for his leadership of this program. To schedule the van to visit your church, school, or business, please call (314) 750-5899.

*Together, we can make a difference!*

### Annual Trivia Night for the Redbirds



Plan to join us on **Saturday, September 19** in the Seven Holy Founders Parish Hall for our annual trivia night.

This is a **general** trivia night, but wear your Cardinals red and get ready to meet **Fredbird** himself!

Tickets are only \$20 per person, tables of 8

Doors open 6pm; Trivia starts 7pm

Sign up on our website or by calling Bonnie at (314) 443-4039

#### “Thank You” from a Former Client

“It was **hard at first to admit that groceries didn’t fit into our monthly budget** and that we weren’t at all certain where the money would come from to fill our pantry and have food on the table.

My daughter’s parent educator contacted your pantry and set up my initial meeting. I was feeling so many emotions and they were quickly put to ease when Anna came out and greeted us. She and all the other ladies were so welcoming, so kind, so generous. **I felt like family.** My daughter came to look forward to the visit to the **‘special store.’** I was surprised by the selection and it was so relieving to stock the pantry and freezer.

I finally **found a great job** and said “good-bye” to the pantry and all the wonderful volunteers.

We were **blessed** to have the pantry’s assistance when we needed it, and pray it will be open to all those desperate for their unbiased support.

**Thank you** for your time and generosity toward such a valuable asset in our neighborhood.”

### Eagle Project for the Kids

**Boy Scout, Paul Daues**, of Troop 725 (St. Dominic Savio) honored the ACFP by choosing us for his Eagle Scout project. Paul built a mobile Activity Center to help entertain the children of our clients when they are waiting for their caregivers to shop in the pantry.



The Activity Center includes a space for books the kids can take home and keep, as well as 14 themed boxes of toys, coloring pages, and activities to keep the kids occupied while they are in the pantry.

#### Our Partners Make a Difference

Thank you to the following funders who make it possible for us to do what we do:

- Walter E. Hoestette Family Foundation**
- St. Anthony’s Charitable Foundation – Physician Ambassadors**
- MTS Foundation**
- Kohls Community Foundation**
- Annual Catholic Appeal**
- Meals on Wheels**

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And to some of our partners in the community:

- Affton School District**
- Bayless School District**
- Bishop DuBourg High School**
- Cor Jesu Academy**
- Concordia Publishing Co.**
- Lutheran High School South**
- Salem Lutheran School**
- St. Dominic Savio School**

### Health Fair Serves Kids and Families

For the 5<sup>th</sup> year, the ACFP will host a **Health Fair**, open to the public, on **Saturday, September 26** from **9am-12pm** in the **St. George Parish Hall**. As in previous years, the fair will include **FREE** flu shots (while supplies last), blood glucose tests, blood pressure checks, and a variety of health and wellness related information.

New this year, we will have **FREE** bike helmets for the children in our program, along with helmet fittings. As in years past, this Health Fair is made possible by the support of the St. Anthony’s Charitable Foundation Physician Ambassadors.



#### Big Smiles = Lots of Food

Saturday, July 25 found more than 2 dozen friendly volunteers outside 2 area Schnucks stores, collecting donations for ACFP via the **Operation Food Search Saturday Jubilee**.

This year, our totals really blew us away. All told, we collected 151 boxes of food (just over 3,000 items!) and more than \$650 in cash!



#### A Merry Little Christmas?

We may be in the midst of a summer heat wave, but some of our volunteers have Christmas on their minds!

This year, we are going to try something new: offering the children in our program an opportunity to “shop” for the special people in their lives in our Christmas Boutique.

Volunteers are hard at work planning this special event for the kids, and are looking for help. If you’d like to donate new or gently used items appropriate for adults, or have a craft you can share, please contact Suzanne at (636) 253-8030.

#### Dinner Auction a Tasty Success

This April, **Pietro’s Restaurant** hosted our first Dinner Auction. The fun-filled evening included the musical stylings of **Mr. Alex Breuer** and the engaging banter from our Aussie emcee, **Mr. Callum Reavey**.

The evening offered several dozen silent auction baskets, and 6 oral auction items, including our **“Brown Bag Program” Fund-a-Need**. In all, the ACFP netted more than \$12,000 toward our programs and food purchases. Big thanks to Board Secretary **Mary Wolfram** (Salem Lutheran) and Fundraising Committee Chair **Rebecca Mohs** (St. Dominic Savio) for their hard work. Also, thanks to all who joined us for the evening, all who donated auction items, and to Pietro’s for their excellent food and service!

Stay tuned... we’re already planning the dinner auction for 2016!