

Christ Church Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is one of Christ Church's longest-serving missions to the community and has grown from a shelf in the Parish Hall to an entire building built proudly and generously by the Parish several years ago. The Pantry is the largest in Plymouth, serving at least 200 individuals and families per month, on a once per week basis. Twice monthly deliveries from the Greater Boston Food Bank bring in about 90% of our supplies, which are either purchased at prices greatly reduced from retail costs, or donated free by GBFB. Donations from the parish and the community make up the other 10%. Every year on the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Christ Church Food Pantry distributes all the ingredients, including turkeys, for festive Thanksgiving dinners that our clients prepare for themselves and their families. It is a favorite parish tradition to which parishioners as well as organizations in the community contribute very generously, making it possible for us to feed almost 100 families.

The Food Pantry has a dedicated group of volunteers, but because of busy schedules, work conflicts, illness, relocations, and the other changes of everyone's lives, we always can use more willing helpers. **The Pantry is open to serve clients every Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.** We like to have two volunteers on each shift. New volunteers are scheduled with experienced workers to receive on-the-job training for at least two shifts. In addition to the hours the Pantry is open for clients, we have **deliveries on the first Wednesday and fourth Thursday of the month.** Volunteers with vans, trucks, station wagons and large car trunks arrive at the Food Warehouse off Exit 7 at 11:00 a.m. to load new supplies into our vehicles. By 11:30 a.m. we arrive at the Pantry, where more waiting volunteers unload the cases of food and freeze or refrigerate perishables and store non-perishables on shelves. The delivery process is usually finished by 12:30 p.m., when volunteers return to their busy schedules (anyone needing to leave before that is of course free to go – we appreciate the time given). In addition we can always use volunteers on days following deliveries to unpack cases of nonperishables that need to be shelved (this is a great opportunity for stay-at-home parents with younger children, who like to stack cans on lower shelves). Lastly, **volunteers are always needed the week before Thanksgiving: on Saturday 10:10 a.m. to noon** to sort and pack bags to be distributed (come help and watch the parade from the best spot in town); **Monday and Tuesday, 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.** to help with distributing bags and loading cars.

Volunteering at the Food Pantry is a community effort – we have helpers from Christ Church, other parishes as well as many who attend no church. Many families choose the Pantry as an opportunity to work together for our community. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **Eileen Paris**, volunteer coordinator for the Pantry, at eileenpca@aol.com or 508-747-1399.