

## THE FOOD PANTRY

The Matawan Community Food Pantry, sponsored by Cross of Glory Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church of Matawan, located in the Borough Municipal Community Center, 201 Broad & Church Street in Matawan, is currently running smoothly. As one of the three designated community service missions of our congregation, the Food Pantry helps to carry out the mission of First Presbyterian Church by "sharing God's gifts" and "exemplifying God's love" in providing food to individuals and families in need in our local community.

Food Pantry volunteers from both congregations distribute food (two large bags of groceries) to community members in need on the last Saturday morning of every month. Three times a year, donations of frozen turkeys, hams, special holiday and fresh foods are requested or purchased for distribution at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Due to the recession our community needs us more than ever. We have gone from 30 families to 50 in just a few short months. We anticipate even more clients as time goes by.

During 2009, significant donations were made to the food pantry by members of both congregations as well as by special food drives sponsored by the Matawan postal workers, Temple Shalom (donated a truck load of food) as well as monetary donations, the Presbyterian Nursery School, Trinity Church Youth Group, Cross of Glory Nursery School, Aberdeen Shoprite, Matawan Rotary, various girl and boy scout troops, Victoria House and Mullaney Associates. The Matawan Library presented us with beautiful cookie & soup jar makings. We again were able to work with Officer Marsala of the Matawan PBA. We were able to coordinate our lists so that families with children received gifts. Many other members of our Community donated food, money and their time.

We continue to utilize the Food Bank of Monmouth County. We continue to be a USDA certified pantry, which means our clients are able to receive various food items at no cost to the community. This certification has state regulations that must be followed. We passed our yearly inspection and I will continue to make the necessary changes that come up. I will continue the education required so that our clients continue to benefit from this program. In the future I will be exploring the possibility of screening each client to evaluate their needs and see if food stamps and other programs can be instituted. We are reaching more people due to the advertising we placed on our local TV channel. We have continued to network with other pantries so that we may serve our clients better.

With the generous monetary contributions from individual members of both congregations and members of the community at large, as well as by local civic, social service, religious groups and organizations, and the many successful food drives, the Matawan Community Food Pantry was able to

continue serving our brothers and sisters in need.

I continue to enjoy doing this job. The various people that I have the privilege to work with are truly wonderful. A special "Thanks" to Sis and Lenny DeMarco and Kathy Odell. I look forward to continuing our partnership with Cross of Glory as we shop, sort and do all there is to do to complete our task. I would like to thank each and every volunteer and group who have helped me this year.

Another special "Thanks" goes to June Nicora who has been fielding all the excess calls for the food pantry. Thanks for keeping your sense of humor and keeping me sane.

**Our goals for the year 2010:**

- Reach more needy individuals in our area
- Explore other ways to help our recipients
- Continue to participate in the Crop Walk for Hunger
- Continue to network with other local pantries
- Food stamp screenings

I thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to share my gift of helping others.

Tammy Cavanaugh  
Pantry Coordinator, First Presbyterian Church of Matawan

Kathy Odell  
Pantry Coordinator, Cross of Glory Lutheran Church