



# News & Notes

Volume 1, August 2009

## Thank you to our volunteers!

In fourteen weeks the food pantry has grown from serving 28 households to over 140 per week. The growth can only continue through the generosity of our volunteers. Thank you to every person for your time, energy and spirit who help with the Hillside Community Food Pantry. Some volunteer opportunities include picking up food from our suppliers, delivering food to shut-ins, and distributing food during open pantry hours. Our volunteers are the true spirit of the food pantry. Through your hard work we hope to continue to grow by expanding serving hours and including more pickup locations. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Pastor Maiya Lueptow. Through our continued growth, we will have additional areas that will need volunteer service.

## How We Started

By Maiya Lueptow

By the grace of God and out of the commitment of many volunteers from Hillside Free Methodist Church and the surrounding community, the Hillside Community Food Pantry has grown from one couple serving a few to dozens reaching out to hundreds.

It all began about two years ago when Faith and Mike Albano joined former Hillsider, Faith Southard, to help pick up food donated by Jewel Foods for the Willow Creek Food Pantry in Barrington. The Albanos were given food to distribute to a handful of families in Evanston.

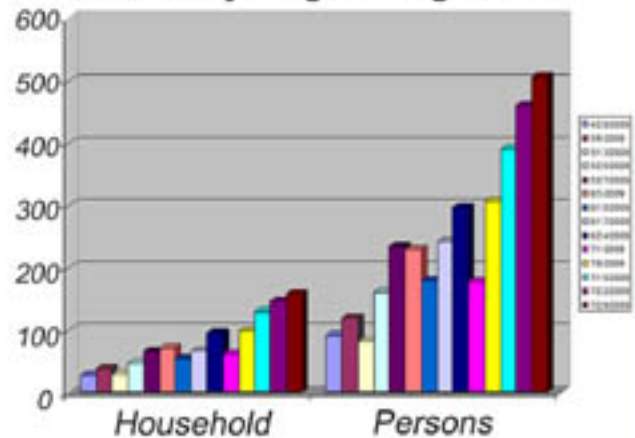
When Mark Taylor was appointed senior pastor at Hillside in June, 2008, he and his wife, Dianne, started to assist the Albanos in their efforts to distribute food. After several months of driving back and forth to Barrington, and with the help of the Willow Creek Food Pantry staff, the Albanos and Taylors developed a relationship with Jewel Foods in Wilmette, and began picking up donated food there instead.

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Cleaning out garage to make room for the food pantry!

## Food Pantry Usage Through Week 14



## Who We Have Helped?

Food pantries are no longer serving only the chronically poor and needy. More families are finding themselves in need for the first time and are turning to food pantries to help keep food on the table as they struggle to make ends meet. People who own their own homes, have kids in college, and have usually been able to pay their bills are using services, at least for a time, that they never had to consider using until one or more of their household members lost their jobs.

At the Hillside Community Food Pantry we primarily serve Evanston, Skokie and Wilmette residents, but we give food to anyone who comes to us, and currently have no residency or income criteria for receiving food. We are committed to distributing as much food as we can to as many people as we can with the help of as many people as want to be a part of this ministry.

We focus on the vast majority who are truly in need and are the intended beneficiaries of this ministry, like Gwen who is an Evanston resident who came to the Hillside Community Food Pantry. Gwen has never had to come to a food pantry before, but when she lost her job recently, she was grateful and relieved when she heard about our ministry. With the money she saves on her grocery bill, she doesn't have to worry as much about being able to pay rent and her other bills while she looks for a new job. She offers her thanks and blessing to everyone involved in this ministry, and thanks God for His provision at just the right time.

To Volunteer contact Rev. Maiya Lueptow – [maiya.lueptow@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maiya.lueptow@sbcglobal.net)