



# HILLSIDE FOOD PANTRY

EVANSTON

## NEWSLETTER

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[www.hillsidepantry.org](http://www.hillsidepantry.org)

This month we celebrate the Pantry's 2nd Anniversary! It doesn't seem possible that two years ago, a half dozen of us sat at tables in the recently renovated 2-car church garage with the overhead door open, waiting for patrons to show up. We wondered if this community outreach ministry would ever take off – but has it ever! As the line outside grew longer and longer, and patrons started lining up earlier and earlier, all doubts vanished.



We have been blessed and overwhelmed by the outpouring of community support we've received. From the anonymous \$10,000 donations to the \$10 one of our patrons gives faithfully each month; from the Cub Scouts who assembled and donated tuna casserole kits to the youth groups who have held food drives and fundraisers for us; from the Empty Bowls fundraisers at the Pot Shop and Evanston Township High School to being named the beneficiary of the Woman's Club of Evanston's 2012 Spring Benefit – we are so thankful to the countless groups and individuals who contribute their money, time



Throughout our second year we have worked to double our capacity to serve our community, as the number of patrons coming to us for food, as well as the number of volunteers wanting to get involved has grown exponentially. Through generous donations, we were able to build an addition and buy a used box truck to increase our capacity to pick up and store food. Through grant funding we've been able to purchase equipment and upgrade our cold storage capacity.



Yet one of the most rewarding things about this ministry is how, over our first two years Hillside Pantry has become a "community of people helping people." The vast majority of our patrons heard about us through another patron. I would venture to say the same thing about our volunteers. Together we have built a community like no other – one in which volunteers, patrons and donors have connected with one another in mutual respect and friendship. Many of us who might not have ever met otherwise have become fond of one another and look forward to seeing each other; working together to make our community a better place and finding ways to help in whatever ways we can. Together we have discovered "It's about more than just the food."

*It's more than just the food...*