

## Students, churches answering need for food to stock Clearinghouse pantry shelves

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 16 November 2010 00:00 - Last Updated Tuesday, 16 November 2010 12:04

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There are some very giving, generous people in Scott County.

Organizations, churches and student groups have all answered a call for help to restock the dwindling supply of food on the shelves of the Scott County Community Clearinghouse pantry recently.

“We really needed this shot in the arm,” reported Nelson Spaulding, Clearinghouse Director. “It’s been tough trying to help the many families and individuals who need this food to make it through the month.”

The local Clearinghouse, which aids those whose income is not sufficient to meet their needs, is constantly challenged to provide food for its clients whose numbers seem to grow from week to week. At one point in October, Spaulding said staff had to cut the number of items each person or family could have from the pantry in an effort to stretch the stock to help as many as possible. “That’s better than closing the doors entirely, which some food pantries have had to do from time to time,” he related.

When word spread that the Clearinghouse pantry supply was extremely low, people and organizations stepped up to help, however. Several churches collected over \$2,000 to buy food for the pantry. Student Councils at both county high schools conducted campaigns to collect canned food. The group at Scottsburg High School delivered two pick-up loads, a possible 2,500 cans and other non-perishable items.

Food drives are also being conducted at Austin and Scottsburg elementary schools.

Additionally, the Clearinghouse has recently received a shipment of commodities from its Columbus-based source, and Morgan Foods Inc. of Austin has again generously donated skids of its canned products.

The need for food never ends, however, Spaulding advised.

“We appreciate all of these efforts to keep the pantry afloat as well as the cash donations that have been brought in. Everything donated helps us to help others in need. I don’t think I need to point out that Scott County has been hit hard by the recession. Everyone knows someone who has been affected by the economy, and a lot of those someones are people who never thought they could be in this situation and need this help,” he said.

Spaulding said the Clearinghouse is currently asking people to ring Salvation Army bells at Wal-Mart during the holiday season. Money collected comes back to Scott County to help the needy.

Volunteers are always needed at the Clearinghouse as well.

Those interested in helping are asked to call the Clearinghouse at 752-0123 for more information.

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