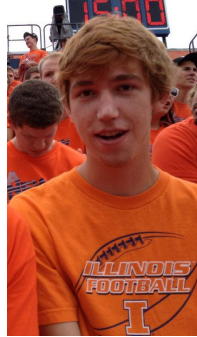


open the 3rd Thursday every month at Wesley 5pm-7:30pm • open the 2nd Wednesday every month at Parkland 7am-2pm

First Time at the Pantry

Steven Adamitus, Newsletter Editor

I am part of a service learning course at the University of Illinois this semester. Service learning courses require students to work at a local charity organization as a form of field observation, as opposed to studying pieces of literature. A friend of mine had worked in soup kitchen in the past and enjoyed it, so I decided I would work at the Wesley Food Pantry. By the time volunteer hours began, it was only a few days before what would be my first shift on the food distribution day. I signed up for orientation that Wednesday night, and would return to Wesley the following night to volunteer.



I was both anxious and excited on the morning of my first day volunteering at the Food Pantry. Orientation the night before had given me a clear understanding of how the Pantry worked, and what my job as a volunteer would consist of. However, it is something that you can't quite grasp until you see it for yourself. Seemingly hundreds of people waiting their turn to pick out groceries, hallways filled with stacks of donated food- it was very overwhelming. Despite the complexities of the event, it ran very smoothly. During my shift, all I saw were happy faces. I was worried that I would be asked questions I wouldn't be able to answer. To my relief I found that the clients were familiar with the process, and those who weren't were often accompanied by friends and family members who showed them how it all worked. Clients flowed through, picking exactly what food they wanted, and left grateful and confident that their family would make it through the end of the month with plenty of food to eat. The client's ability to pick out what food they wanted stood out to me as a great addition to

the traditional food pantry, and one that I had never heard of. One woman I helped shop for groceries told me that her kids loved fruit, so her bags were packed with assorted canned fruits. Despite the hardships in her life, she could at least be happy providing her children with food they would enjoy.

Wesley provides much more than meals for these families, it provides the opportunity for families to eat what they like. This opportunity is hard to come by for struggling families, and Wesley makes these families lives every bit better that they can. By the time my shift was over, I felt very confident about my work for the day. My time at the Pantry was well spent, and I got to make a real difference to the locals of Champaign county. I now look forward to every third Thursday of the month as a day that I can escape the stress of class and do some good for the community.

REMEMBER

Food Distribution Days

- November 21 @ Wesley, 5-7:30pm
- December 11 @ Parkland, 7am-2pm
- December 19 @ Wesley, 5-7:30pm
- January 8 @ Parkland, 7am-2pm
- January 16 @ Wesley, 5-7:30pm

Smile Healthy at Wesley

We would like to thank Smile Healthy for generously donating tooth paste to Wesley! Thanks to Smile Healthy, we were able to give away toothpaste to hundreds of families during a recent food distribution day. Wesley supports local families in many ways other than giving out a week's supply of food, and Smile Healthy has helped us continue to do so. Smile Healthy is a non-profit organization that partners with Wesley to provide dental care for visitors to the pantry and community members. The organization has mobile dental centers that they can set up in the Wesley building, and other places across Champaign County, to provide dental care to community members in need. In addition to providing on site care, Smile Healthy also works with families to get them proper health care. Education for both children and adults gives families the information they need to insure proper dental hygiene. This partnership brings much needed care, besides food, to those who need help in the Champaign County area.

Sign up to volunteer!

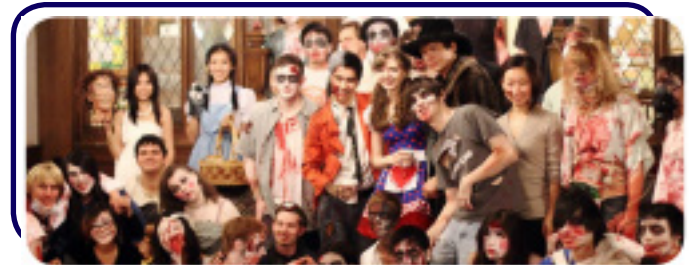
- First time volunteers must attend one orientation session
- Volunteer shifts are easy and fun!
- Sign up today at wesleypantry.org/volunteering/



A volunteer loads our pre-packaged bags for our food distribution. If pantry visitors don't have time to pick out the food they like, they can choose from an assortment of ready-to-go bags.

Haunted House Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who visited and worked at the Wesley Haunted House 2013! The frightful event raised more than \$5,000 for the food pantry, making it the largest fundraising event of the year. We hope that everyone involved had a scary fun time, and we look forward to next year's event!



Would you like to donate?

- Head on over to our website at: wesleypantry.org/donating
- We can feed each person who comes into the food pantry for a week for only \$6.50, so any donation you make will make a difference.



Thank you to University student groups, such as sororities and fraternities, that put together fundraisers for the pantry!

Numbers Served at the Food Pantry

sep.
1,281

oct.
1,258

“I’m sorry to be late, but this food pantry is so nice I just can’t leave!,”

- Pantry Visitor

“I’m so glad to be here. It’s my first time. I just didn’t know...,”

- Volunteer

Wesley Pantry at Parkland

We are proud to announce that after a year of planning, the Wesley Pantry at Parkland opens Wednesday December 11th! The purpose of this pantry is to feed the many Parkland College students who juggle school and financial obligations. Many Parkland students work full-time and have families, and we hope that the pantry will prevent food insecurity. The Wesley Pantry at Parkland will be open the second Tuesday of every month from 7am to 2pm. Similar to the Wesley Food Pantry, the Wesley Pantry at Parkland is open at a time most convenient for those who use it, so that patrons do not have to miss other obligations to pick up food.

“Every time I talk with a group of Parkland students, I come away amazed at their commitment to education—accompanied by great financial hardship.”

- Director, Donna Camp

Food Pantry Resource Centers

Wesley friends are welcome to visit the Information Resource Centers at the November 21 food pantry from 4-6:30pm.

NOVEMBER 21ST RESOURCE CENTERS

- Information & Referral — Community Services
- Children’s Center — Reading, Books & Coloring
- Health Information — Parish Nurse
- SNAP — Food Stamps
- Money Mentors — UI Extension
- Holiday Helps — Crisis Nursery
- Health Assessments — HeRMES Clinic
- Flu Shot Clinic — Walgreens Pharmacy
- Activities — Magazines, Puzzles, Shopping Coupons

Also see Community Services announcements on bulletin board

Thank you to everyone who donates so we can buy food!

We wouldn't be able to help feed the community without you.

2013 Donations Through Oct 31st

\$15,867 Individual Unpledged Donations

\$21,052 Organizations' Donations

\$33,693 Recieved Pledges

Total: \$70,612

If you have yet to reach your pledge goal for 2013, please try to complete it by the end of the year. Your donations are very important to us and keep the food pantry up and running.

2014 Pledge

Keep a look out for the 2014 Wesley Food Pantry pledge card! Donors and volunteers will receive an email or letter soon. Please fill it out and return it as soon as possible.

Sample pledge card:

Pledge to Wesley Evening Food Pantry
In an effort to help the pantry have better information for creating a 2013 budget, I'm offering my pledge of financial support for the Wesley Evening Food Pantry in 2013.

My commitment to the Wesley Evening Food Pantry is _____ per (week, month, year)

Name _____ (Turn card over to enter/confirm your address.)

(Please turn in this card at any volunteer event or mail to Wesley Evening Food Pantry, 1203 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801, or email your information to donate@wesleypantry.org.)

Pledge for 2013 Giving to Wesley Evening Food Pantry

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Note this is a new address

Wesley in the News

- Watch for a feature story in the News-Gazette the Sunday after Thanksgiving at: <http://www.news-gazette.com/>
- A Daily Illini article coming soon at: <http://www.dailyillini.com/>
- An article about the new pantry at Parkland: http://www.illinoishomepage.net/story/pantry-to-open-at-parkland-for-students/d/story/T8SyGD_NxUW51DGvDCUsUA

