

# The Pantry Insider

The Wesley Food Pantry Newsletter

September 2015

## Pantry Wins Prestigious Awards, Grants



Recently the Wesley Food Pantry was invited to apply for a Monsanto Fund grant, last awarded to the pantry in 2012. The

application was successful, and the pantry has been awarded a \$10,000 grant for food—the greatest amount that an organization can request. Food pantry staff and board members graciously accept the award from local (Thom- asboro) Monsanto representatives Stacy Acton, Michael Kovach, and Dinah Licht.

The Monsanto Fund aims to “improve the lives of people

by bridging the gap between their needs and their resources.” Each year the Monsanto Fund concentrates on a specific theme, and this year’s campaign revolved around hunger. We are eternally grateful for this generous grant and excited to continue our efforts to empower our neighbors one meal at a time! Monsanto, thank you for helping us to fight hunger in our community!

The food pantry has also recently been awarded a grant from Cunningham Township in the amount of \$5,600 to be used towards pantry expenses. The grant was made possible by the Cunningham Township/City of Urbana Consolidated Social Service Grants Program which supports non-profit agencies that service low-income residents.

This is the third time the food pantry has received this grant. Thank you Cunningham! Your continued support reminds us that there is strength in community building.

## Wesley Pantry Welcomes New Donors

THE CHURCH OF  
**JESUS CHRIST**  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

This past July the food pantry received a \$1,000 food donation from the Champaign Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints! The in-kind donation consisted of delicious items such as black beans, oats, honey, and chili for use at the Evening Food Pantry. Church members also spent time volunteering with the pantry. A big thank you to Ryan Larsen and the LDS Church!

The Wesley Food Pantry would also like to express our immense gratitude for Health Alliance’s recent first time donation. Health Alliance is dedicated to treating their

patients like people, not policies, and continues to demonstrate their commitment to this mission by supporting the Wesley Food Pantry. Thank you Health Alliance!



## Social Services Desk

We would like to thank all of the amazing social service agencies that have helped us nourish our community: The Immigration Project, Champaign County Christian Health Center, Illini Medical Screening Society, Champaign County Health Care Consumers and SNAP Outreach volunteers.

# Volunteer Spotlight

**Name:** Edwin "Ed" Friedl

Ed has been volunteering with the food pantry for at least five years and is now a regular volunteer at both the Evening Pantry and the Parkland Pantry. He thinks that humbling oneself to receive help from others can be just as powerful—a philosophy which has undoubtedly shaped the way Ed interacts with the food pantry.

**Name:** Vitaliy Dushnov

Vitaliy started getting involved with the Wesley Evening Food Pantry last semester while fulfilling service hours for an honor's course. Helping people is his favorite part of volunteering. Vitaliy recalls his first pantry day, where he spent a total of about nine hours in the Wesley building--from orientation to last-minute prep to food distribution and cleanup.

Get the full stories at  
[wesleypantry.org/volunteer-spotlight](http://wesleypantry.org/volunteer-spotlight)



*Volunteer Ed Friedl*

## Photo Op Fridays

Take a quick moment to like the Wesley Evening Food Pantry on Facebook. It's a great way to keep up with food pantry current events. Also, the food pantry is excited to start joining in on Photo-Op Fridays! Visit Our Facebook Page to share your favorite pantry images and your photo could be featured on our website and/or newsletter!



## Thank you, IEI!

Students from U of I's Intensive English Institute worked together for two hours to repackage 1,000 lbs. of white rice in preparation for July's distribution. IEI students also turned out in large numbers to support our clients during food distribution on pantry night. IEI's volunteer contribution made a world of difference. Thanks IEI!

## New Logo Unveiled

There are a number of ways in which the Wesley Evening Food Pantry and the Wesley Pantry at Parkland College are different. For one thing, each pantry is its own program and has its own food budget, which means that donations designated to a certain pantry are used exclusively for that pantry. Also, the Parkland pantry is a USDA-certified pantry and receives free government commodities that we use to serve students, veterans, and the local community. As different as the two entities may seem, they do share several key elements, including the same parent organization, the same outstanding staff and volunteers, and the same unique mission to address food insecurity in Champaign County!

To help clarify these ideas, the Wesley Food Pantry teamed up with Parkland College's Applied Media Promotions for the unveiling of an updated, more comprehensive logo.



## WHO ARE WE SERVING?

10,476

individuals



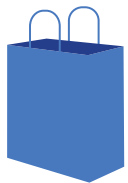
2,459

households served so far in 2015

4,546

children

30% of individuals served used the wesley pantry at parkland college



230

children's books distributed in august

## New Operations Manager Named



Meet Dawn Longfellow, new Operations Manager to the Wesley Food Pantry! Dawn graduated from the U of I in 1995. With a background in non-profit marketing and fundraising, she has worked with U of I students at Illini Media and local schools as

a part of the Market Day fundraising program. Dawn enjoys baking in her free time, so pantry volunteers may be in for a special treat!

Dawn will be an excellent addition to the pantry team. Welcome aboard Dawn!

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As part of Hunger Action Month, I invite you to join me in participating in the SNAP Challenge. This is an exercise in empathy and an opportunity to raise awareness about food insecurity in our community. From September 20th to 26th, I will follow the SNAP Challenge guidelines set out by Eastern Illinois Foodbank. Please visit their website at <http://www.eifoodbank.org/ham/snapchallenge.html> for all the details. Then follow me on Wesley Pantry's Facebook page as I participate in the SNAP challenge. Please share your own experiences, post pictures, and comment.

In addition to taking the SNAP challenge we are encouraging you to make a donation to the Wesley Food Pantry. In honor of the SNAP challenge, donate \$31.50, the amount allotted to one person for groceries for an entire week by SNAP. A generous pantry donor will match up to \$2000 raised in September. You can make your contribution online or mail in your check. Please mark your donation as a SNAP Challenge donation. Donate whatever you are comfortable with, but join us as we try to raise awareness and funds to combat hunger in our community.



On behalf of our neighbors in need I thank you for your support.

-Katie Thomas

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

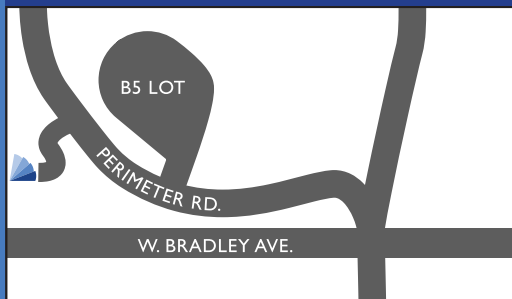


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### Green & Goodwin



### Parkland College "S" Building



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**WEB**

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[@wesleypantry](https://www.facebook.com/wesleypantry)

### Donate Today!

**ONLINE:**

[wesleypantry.org/donating](http://wesleypantry.org/donating)

**MAIL:**

1203 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801  
*Please make checks payable to Wesley Food Pantry.*