

## Rethink What One Person Can Do

**Donna Camp, Director**

Talking with people during food distribution is one of my great joys. Over the last few months, I have noticed a theme running through these conversations with people waiting to shop for food and those working to set up the food—one person can make a big difference.



This idea that one person, that I, can make a difference is sometimes difficult for any of us to believe, but absolutely vital to bringing change to our community. Here's a small sample of what one person can do.

A woman who had received food in the past approached the number give-out table. "I brought my neighbor." When I held out a number card for her, she said "I don't need a card today. My neighbor has never been here before, so I will wait with her even though I don't need food this month."

A University of Illinois social work student has volunteered in the waiting area for many months, helping people with food stamp (aka Link, SNAP) applications. Recently a man he had helped revise an application stopped by to say the revised application had resulted in their family having significantly more food stamp money every month.

A woman waiting to draw her number handed me a stack of neatly folded paper grocery bags. "I have been saving these all month. I thought if I brought back the bags I use, you wouldn't need to buy as many."

A volunteer stopped me at the end of the night to say he had helped someone with three bags of groceries to a bus stop several blocks away. "I know we were short-handed tonight, but the man had never been here before and didn't know he would have so much to carry."

"My children and I want to give to the pantry," said a single mother with two young children. "I want to encourage them to give but didn't know how to add that to our budget. We know you can feed a family our size for \$12 or \$13, so the girls came up with the idea of every week before we went through the checkout line at the grocery, we would put back something that costs at least \$3. Here's the money we've saved for the last month."

I saw a young child and her mother leaving before distribution had begun. When I asked if there was a problem, the mother said, "My daughter is so excited about the books she picked out upstairs! We are going to put them in the car now so we don't accidentally leave them when it's time to shop." Every month we give children's books to any families that want them. Most books are donated by people whose own children have outgrown them.

How can YOU make a difference?

## FOOD PANTRY DATES TO REMEMBER

(Every Third Thursday of the Month)

**August 19** - UI Freshmen move-in day; lots of parking volunteers needed)

**September 16**

**October 21**

**November 18**

**December 16** - many volunteers out of town; if you only volunteer once or twice a year, consider December

Future Events

**August 7** - Kids Against Hunger repackage event (Urbana Middle School)

**August 22** - University of Illinois Quad Day



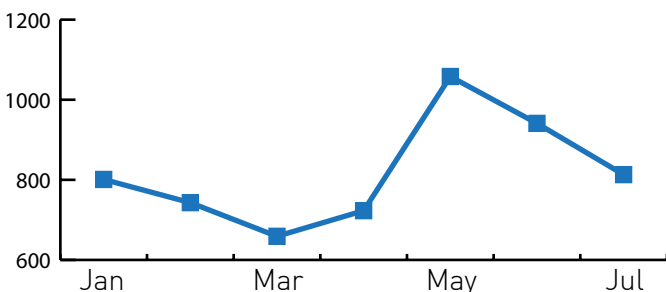
## Wesley Evening Food Pantry Receives 2010 IDF Social Justice Grant

The Illinois Disciples Foundation (IDF) is a non-profit organization committed to the struggle for peace with social justice. The IDF's mission is informed by our legacy of campus ministry, direct action for social change, and the radical traditions of the Disciples of Christ. IDF has awarded Wesley Evening Food Pantry, along thirteen other organizations, a 2010 Social Justice Grant, valued at \$35,000.

Director Donna Camp noted it "...would allow the Wesley Evening Food Pantry to not only continue its work in providing food for those in need, but also expand its ability to use the program to raise community awareness of hunger and empower volunteers to become more effective agents of social change."

## Clients Served Through July 2010

We are serving similar number of clients compared to the number of clients served from 2009. In 2009, on average, we served 949 clients per month; in 2010, up to July, we have served 959 clients per month on average. In the most recent month of July, we served 813 clients and we expect the similar number of clients to sustain through the summer. If the trends from last year continue, we will experience increasing number of clients as we approach the end of 2010.



## Meet Our Volunteer Coordinators



### Ariel Hsieh

I am a volunteer coordinator for the Wesley Evening Food Pantry for the summer of 2010. I was born and raised in Champaign, Illinois. This fall I will be a Junior at the University of Illinois majoring in Actuarial Science. This September will also mark my one-year anniversary at the Wesley Food Pantry. In September of 2009, I at-

tended a training session at the Wesley Foundation and the following day was the third Thursday and pantry night. I arrived at the beginning of the evening with the intention of staying for a few hours and had so much fun and was so completely immersed in what I was doing. By the time I thought to stop and take a break, it was 8:00 PM and unknowingly, I had stayed for the entire pantry night. Since then, I have been back every Thursday to volunteer at the Wesley Food Pantry.



### Erin Health

I am a graduate student in English Literature. I am currently working on my PhD, and I am about to start my dissertation on animation and its spectatorship. I have called Champaign home for three years now. I have been volunteering at the food pantry for a little over two of those years,

minus the time that I go home to Texas. I am originally from Odessa, Texas where I grew up with two sisters. I volunteered for the first time in high school at a local soup kitchen, and I remember listening to really interesting stories from one of the customers and decided that it was something I definitely wanted to do again. I am honored to be chosen for a more active position, and I look forward to serving the Wesley Evening Food Pantry, its volunteers, and the public.



## Austin Hsiao

I am a second-year graduate student in the Bioengineering department. I began volunteering for Wesley Food Pantry as a volunteer coordinator in the Fall of 2009 and now, I have added newsletter editor to my responsibilities. In my undergraduate years, I did not get a chance provide social service and once I got to graduate school, I immediately searched for a volunteer opportunity that I can participate for the full duration of my residence in Urbana, Illinois. Wesley Food Pantry was the ideal opportunity since my actions directly help those in need and as a volunteer coordinator, I can further contribute to the organization. As part of Wesley Food Pantry team, I hope to contribute to the sustainability of the organization and its ability to serve all of our clients in need.

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## Kate Metcalf recognized by Sodexo Foundation

Katy started the University High School food pantry club, which raises money to purchase rice in bulk, then repackages it for the Wesley Evening Food Pantry. Since the club started in September 2009, there have been many months that the only rice available at the pantry has been donated by the club. Recently, Katy Metcalf was recognized as one of the regional honorees of Sodexo STOP Hunger Scholarship program and awarded with \$1000 to Wesley Food Pantry.

“I started the Uni club , because it seemed like an easy way to get other people involved with the Food Pantry. It’s already a group of really passionate and community-oriented people. They just needed an opportunity to help.”



## Ways YOU can make a difference

### Direct Donations

Since it opened in 2006, the Wesley Evening Food Pantry has provided a week’s worth of groceries to over 14,500 people in Champaign County. Our membership in the Eastern Illinois Food bank makes it possible to feed each person for a week for about \$6.50. To continue this important work, we need your financial support.

- Donate online at <http://www.firstgiving.com/wesleyeveningfoodpantry>
- Make a donation by mail or deliver it to 1203 W. Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801. Make checks payable to Wesley Evening Food Pantry.
- See your employer about designating pay-roll deductions to the Pantry through the Community Shares program.
- Donate as an organization, a company, a group of friends, or a family.
- Hold a food drive for an item that we cannot get through the East Illinois Food Bank. Contact Donna Camp at [dcamp@wesleypantry.org](mailto:dcamp@wesleypantry.org) for more information.


### Wish List

#### Items we need monthly:

- Name tags
- Mailing labels
- Permanent markers, regular and king-size
- Paper grocery bags (1/6 bbl for groceries; smaller sizes for repackaging)
- Sandwich and quart zipper bags
- Pens, tape, masking tape
- Flip chart pads
- Printer ink (Cartridge LC65HY – black and other colors)

#### Items we need once:

- Loan of a refrigerator truck on the 3rd Thursday of every month
- Laminator (able to use 11x17 paper)
- 2+ large dry or wet erase marker boards (with stands preferred, but not necessary) for posting announcements in the volunteer room and for clients as they enter.

  
wesley evening  
**FOOD PANTRY**  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
1203 W. Green St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

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## **Thank you for your generous contributions of time and money**

### **Donors & Volunteer Orgs**

Alpha Phi Omega  
American Association of Women in  
Community College  
Campus Middle School for Girls  
Community Shares of Illinois  
CU Junior Women's Club  
Cunningham Children's Home  
Etc Coffeehouse  
Graduate Social Work Association at UI  
Illinois Disciples Foundation  
LAS 122 students  
Mahomet UMC Youth Group  
Minuteman Press  
University HS Food Pantry Club rice  
Urbana HS Social Justice Club  
Wesley Food Pantry RSO  
Wesley Foundation Students  
Wesley United Methodist Women

### **Resource agencies**

Children's Activities and Reading  
Health Information  
SNAP – Food Stamps  
Township Assistance – Cunningham  
Township  
Alcohol Information – AA  
Effective Parenting – UI Psychological  
Services  
Tax Assistance  
Urbana Adult Education  
Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club  
Financial Management – UI Extension  
Parkland College Adult Re-Entry  
Center  
Community Service Center of North  
Champ Co  
All Kids/Family Care – C-U Public  
Health  
Lemonade Day Project

Frances Nelson Health Center  
Employment – Illinois workNet  
Nutrition & Dental Health – Smile  
Healthy  
Home Gardening – UI Extension  
Environmental Stewardship – Faith in  
Place  
Dental Health – CU Public Health  
Health Care – Ch Co Christian Health  
Center  
Health Care – Ch Co Health Care Con-  
sumers  
IL Migrant Legal Assistance Project  
Urbana Free Library  
Finances – Cunningham Township  
Education – Parkland College  
Education – Odyssey Project