

Article 13.

Calvary Food Pantry: Volunteers are our shining stars



Welch Allyn volunteer day work group: the many hands of Jamie and Debbie, Tim, Nicole, Charlie, Elaine and Linda building two boxes for the Calvary Food Pantry Garden located across the street at the Faatz-Crofut Home.

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A group of volunteers completed planting vegetables this past Monday at the Calvary Food Pantry Garden at the Faatz-Crofut Home, across the street from our pantry. We call it our victory garden. We could not have done it without the assistance from the Allyn Foundation mini grant, the Welch Allyn volunteer day work group and the many hands of Jamie and Debbie, Tim, Nicole, Charlie, Elaine and Linda on Tuesday, June 10, putting in two more raised boxes at the home, with a total of six boxes to garden this summer.

The grant included a shed, delivered easily by Breezy Point Farm Market and put up against the back side of the Calvary Presbyterian Church. (Have you seen a shed put in place on rough terrain? The young man from the farm market used remote control, establishing the shed right on the targeted foundation dirt newly formed by the Welch Allyn volunteers. He obviously has done it many times.) Professional, and concisely done, this shed will hold our tools. The Allyn Foundation is to be congratulated, again, for accommodating me to help feed our community and help me where I needed most. Thank you!

The Welch Allyn volunteers took most of the day building, and told me they enjoyed the work. They never quit until the boxes and cleanup was done in the afternoon. (Not a shred of machinery waste, dirt or wood was left). Amazing! Don R., our gardener, was then able to plant, (with volunteers Loretta and Elizabeth), the cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, peppers and peas that I wanted for this initial planting. Don assures me by the end of July, I will have an abundance of

fresh produce. These six vegetables plots, small this first year, are part of my continuing efforts to feed hungry people fresh sustenance all summer long.

Furthermore, I do receive vegetables and fruit from the farmers in the community, along with the farmers markets' contributions when they meet at the Curley's Restaurant parking lot. Our first pickup was June 17. This is a rotating list with other food pantries. I also pay small sums to augment the labor and expenses for some fruit, but most vegetables are free. We received a mini food bank grant to purchase produce from local farmers. We are already receiving beautiful, fresh-picked strawberries. As I told you last month, our farmers giving vegetables are indispensable to my efforts, just as my RSVP volunteers are to the smooth running of my pantry.

I talked about RSVP volunteers in [article four](#). Each year, RSVP has a luncheon honoring their volunteers. I went to this wonderful event June 17. It is a yearly gathering of all the volunteers belonging to the organization under the guidance of Mary Ann Kilo and their advisory council. You know who you are. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your inspiring services to me, my people, my pantry and my community.

NEWS FROM THE PANTRY

The annual Volunteer Meeting was June 20.

- Volunteer for the year from the Food Bank of CNY is George Wilson for his effort in furthering our mission.
- FUNDRAISING: We have a pampered chef fundraiser until the end of the month at pamperedchef.biz/pcwdougandjohn. Our Tupperware party fundraiser was a big success. Thank you all for your contributions.
- Volunteer, donate, and reciprocate by giving back to your community food pantries and charities, which are listed with this column.