

## Article 16.

# Heroes for Hunger: Ordinary people who help feed the hungry in my pantry, one individual at a time. The Auburn LOWES is coming through.

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We just closed the Calvary Food Pantry garden, across the street at the Faatz-Crofut Home, but we must remind the community of the work of 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 at the garden's site this summer. Their work increased the garden's output of vegetables this summer three fold.

My heroes this month are the individuals who have been helped by my pantry and then give back to it, when they can. A woman comes in once a month to hand me special gifts: personal items that total \$30 or more. She knows these are what she needed and I gave them to her when she had nothing. She has done this once a month for the past three years. She says the pantry helped her and her family out when she was desperate and destitute. I know that I am just a touchstone in her revival to normalcy, but it pleases me to see what my pantry and my volunteers can do to help. She is one of several people who donate back to the pantry each month. To her and all of those who worked hard to successfully get back on track, we salute you.

### Pantry news

I have closed the garden across the street, at the Fraatz-Crofut Home, thanks to Don, my head gardener. He was very pleased to report that all four boxes had produced vegetables we used all summer, a grand start to our first summer at the home. Thank you to all the residents who watched over it.

I made the decision to start my first fundraising campaign in October, asking Auburnians to contribute to my pantry and help us meet our 2014-2015 budget needs, as a 501(c)(3) charity. We ask all Auburnians to help and support us in this quest for donations. Please call me if you wish to see my letter and donation card. Jacobs Press printed it all for me. Auburn Copy Center in the Phoenix building rescued my computer, several times, in order to carry out this initial drive.

I am so lucky with the individuals who sponsor my winter gift-giving. We are starting early earlier this year. The Turkey Trot, lead by First Presbyterian Church, but supported by several other local churches, donates approximately 230 turkeys each year. The pantry adds a basket with stuffing, potatoes, cranberry/fruit, vegetables, beverages, dessert and miscellaneous items like Jell-O, pudding and cookies. If you would like to contribute any of the basket's contents, please call me. They look beautiful to our families.

Shawn Hubbard, manager at the Auburn Lowe's on Grant Avenue, has also started his winter clothes and coat campaign early this year by giving associates a place in the back training room to collect canned goods, winter clothes and winter coats. He is no stranger to our pantry (our access ramp was built by Lowe's associates), and his manager's winter coat drive last year put 40 coats on our clothing racks. Throughout the summer, Mr. Hubbard has continued asking his associates to give clothing, especially for children needing school clothes. He alone contributed 10 huge bags. We are grateful and thank him and all of 110 Lowes's associates for their continuing support.

Events coming up

The Boy Scouts, Longhouse Council, will be collecting food for Auburn food pantries beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8. Volunteer, contribute or reciprocate in kind by giving back