

Article 21.

Calvary Food Pantry: Cayuga County farmer comes through with generous gift

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From left are Monsanto rep. Nate Holt, Nancy Sheffield, and Mr. and Mrs. Montross. For more information about the program, visit americasfarmers.com.

The Calvary Food Pantry recently received a \$2,500 donation from Cayuga County farmer Pete Montross and America's Farmers Grow Communities, a program sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. The funding will help the pantry provide more fresh produce on a weekly basis, Executive Director Nancy Sheffield said in a news release.

Happy spring to all of you in the city of Auburn who help my mission of feeding hungry Americans. Yes, the snow is still deep and blizzard temperatures control our every movement, but I am pleased to report that I was just given an amazing (warming) gift in time for the feast of Easter.

As I have stated in past articles, I am constantly searching for funding. I spend at least 40 percent of my time applying for grants. Then we had our first fundraising campaign in October 2014, where we had hoped to make at least \$3,000 dollars to supplement our discretionary funding. How hard is it to ask for \$38 to feed a person for a week? Very hard. We were unsuccessful sending out a solicitation letter, but individuals and the Auburn churches stepped up to augment this disappointment. Astonishingly, out of the blue, Pete and Beverly Montross recommended my pantry to the American Farmers Grow Communities, the Monsanto Fund, who just gave us a \$2,500 check! Thank you for the delightful surprise!

Our heroes this month are Pete and Beverly Montross, of Montross Farm in Cayuga County. Thank you for this gift.

This is my 21st article. I could not imagine, when I started our Heroes for Hunger conversations with the citizens of Auburn, that I would reach such a milestone. Thank you, David Wilcox and The Citizen. Happy Easter to all our friends.

News from the pantry:

- There will be a soup and sandwich luncheon on Thursday, April 16, with fresh homemade sandwiches and at least five homemade soups to choose from. The cost is \$7.50, which includes beverage and homemade cookies and brownies. The meal is for eating in or takeout. This is our fourth year as a fundraiser.

- Please note: Our beloved friend, the Rev. Dave Borthwick, passed away on March 10. He was a former board of directors president. Because of his outgoing and very sizable and considerable personality, we were blessed with his many contributions. Please, volunteer, donate, contribute or reciprocate in kind.