



February 2017

NEWS FROM THE PANTRY

Mark your calendars now for our Garden Patch Party on April 1

Come together for a great time to support HIM Pantry! We will have a light meal together on Saturday, April 1 from 6-9 p.m. featuring baked potatoes, salad and desserts. There will be fun raffles and back by demand The Harbor Lights Choir. Buy tickets now: \$10 each/table for 8 for \$200.

Two new churches become pantry member churches

We welcome two new Heights area churches as member churches: St. Andrew's Episcopal and The Church at 1548 Heights (Church of Christ). We now have six member churches whose congregations are committed to supporting the pantry with their time, their talent and their treasure. Dave Barnett and Christy Andrews from St. Andrew's and Thad Pugh, Scott Williams and Susan Miller from 1548 join the pantry's board of directors as representatives for their churches. In addition, Marlena Cantu has become the newest board representative for The Vineyard Church.

Smart and compassionate: NJHS at Frank Black raises over \$4K

The members of the National Junior Honor Society at Frank Black Middle School organized a raffle to benefit the pantry. They raffled off a spa basket, a Texans basket with tickets and a parking pass, an Astros basket with goodies and a movie and a dinner basket. All basket materials were donated by NJHS members, families and community members, and then NJHS scholars sold raffle tickets to raise the money. Their efforts netted a whopping \$4,700 for pantry, one of the pantry's biggest fundraisers ever. With this amount, the pantry can buy over 16,000 pounds of food from the Houston Food Bank and serve about 500 individuals. Thank you, NJHS!!!

HIM Pantry Merits Gold Status with Houston Food Bank

The pantry buys most of its food from the Houston Food Bank, and the HFB incentivizes pantries to meet specific standards. The HIM Pantry has been awarded "gold" status based on our ability to offer more nutritious food, give more food per person, allow client choice in pantry items, offer evening and weekend hours, highlight links to social services and provide social services. As a result of our gold status, the pantry was rewarded with 15 pallets (that weighed 25,366 pounds) of FREE food from the HFB. Thanks to the all-volunteer team that made this happen.

Want to help? The pantry sure could use...

- Cans of fruit
- Soup
- Canned meat
- Meals in a can like stew
- Soap and other hygiene items

Consider holding a food drive for these items at your workplace, church or school. Drop off nonperishable food items any time at the Feed Frank donation box on the pantry parking lot.

Annual rummage sale nets over \$3,500

Thanks to all who donated items for our annual rummage sale and who worked at the sale each day. We netted \$3,588.50 and appreciate everyone's contribution.

How many lives were impacted in our own neighborhood in 2016?

As of December 31, we served 16,517 individuals at the pantry in 2016. Since the pantry's inception in 2009, the pantry has served 118,588 individuals through 2016 and purchased 551,616 pounds (over 275 TONS!) of food from the Houston Food Bank for \$102,177 since we opened.

Meet Dave Barnett: Volunteer and new board member



Dave Barnett has been volunteering at the pantry for about four and a half years with a dedicated group from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Heights. Volunteering at the pantry has been something that he has been drawn to for a long time. "Food is something everybody needs. Christ was always forthcoming in feeding the hungry and focusing on the poor." Dave finds the variety of people served at the pantry interesting and has learned a lot just by being here.

"Volunteering is something I try to do as consistently as I can. Rather than just donating money, spending time being involved with an organization you are drawn to" is important. Dave is now one of St.

Andrew's representatives on the pantry's board of directors.

Want to volunteer? It's easy with Signup Genius...

We need volunteers each week on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. From time-to-time we have special events when we also need helping hands. Many students and others come to the pantry to fulfill their service hour commitments. Check out the volunteer opportunities and sign up to help through [Signup Genius](#).

Do you have suggestions for the pantry?

Please send them to himpantry@gmail.com or send us a message on Facebook. Or chat with Alice. We love new ideas!

Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry

Open Thursdays 5-7pm and Saturdays 10am-12pm

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