



Living Justice Community of St. Thomas the Apostle

Our St. Thomas the Apostle Lenten fundraiser this year is the local charity “Peters Pantry”. Below is a short description from Tracy Minehan, (Peters Pantry General Manager & St. Thomas the Apostle parishioner), of how Peters Pantry started and the vital services they provide for so many individuals and families in our community.

“Peter’s Pantry opened their doors in Manitowoc on May 23rd, 1988 and have been helping those with food insecurities ever since. They are able to do this because businesses, organizations, religious groups and individuals have been donating to this cause in and around Manitowoc County. Our Pantry is set up like a grocery store and families pick the items that their family would want, this is called a “Client’s Choice” pantry. Every week the items might be different. We give our families what we have. We have approximately 200 families in the city & county who come through every week and all families are allowed to come weekly, instead of monthly.

We do not receive any government assistance what so ever. All of the money used to run this nonprofit comes from donations. This allows us to help all individuals who need assistance without asking for income or other questions. We only ask for proof of residency. Our goal is to simply provide food for families in need.

Most of our food come to us from stores in the area, thanks to the help of “Feeding America”. Feeding America assigns stores to us, and we send drivers to these stores six days a week. After we bring all the food back to our pantry, everything is gone through, sorted and then put away or put out so our pantry families can take what they need.

Our Pantry is run totally by “volunteers”: from our drivers who get the food, to the people who work directly with our families. We are always looking for help, as we need drivers who can drive a box truck, (no CDL required) and people willing to work with our families and help us stock our shelves. We always need volunteers that are bilingual. Most volunteers work one or two days a week for a 3-hour shift.

Besides our pantry families we also help other organizations and non-profits, as we provide food for: In Courage, the Haven, United Ministries Meals, Lakeshore sober living, Lotus House, The Warming Shelter, and the Unsheltered, and other smaller pantries in the area.

Many people have driven by Peter’s Pantry but haven’t been inside before. If you would like to tour our Pantry. Please give me a call. We would be happy to set something up for either individuals or a group.”

Please see the “Peters Pantry” table in the Gathering Space at church for more information or you can also go online at: peterspantry.org