

Black Rock Food Pantry Bulletin

[May 2009 Newsletter Supplement]

Meals Delivered 11-08 (3027) 12-08 (5103) 1-09 (5256) 2-09 (5166) 3-09 (6030)

Download our BRFP Spring Newsletter at www.blackrockfoodpantry.com

Sugar, flour, cooking oil, catsup, lettuce, cereal on our pantry shelves before our clients arrive on Saturday morning [4-25-09]. By noon, these shelves will be empty. That's how great the need is.



- “Plant a Row for Black Rock Food Pantry” urges Gail’s Blog at Black Rock Online Community. “The Black Rock Garden Club is offering free seeds to kick start your gardens!” They invite gardeners to “Please plant a row this summer and donate your produce to the Black Rock food Pantry.”

- **E**ven in good times, defined as the years before the economic collapse of just a few months ago, food banks and pantries called for increased giving from their contributors because the times were very dire for their clients. Still, for our clients, were the times before the Market’s collapse and the great moan from banks, less bleak than they are today? The evidence is that from the Saturday we opened on 11-22-08, the numbers served have steadily increased. This could be attributed to needy people learning about the Pantry. But in MARCH, 190 families, 670 individuals, 263 children and 26 elderly received food. We await the April tabulations.

Read more about the Pantry at www.blackrockpantry.com.

Download Spring Newsletter PDF.

Learn about Volunteering and/or giving.

“Outside of a dog, a book is a man’s best friend. Inside of a dog, it’s too dark to read.” William Safire attributes the quotation to Groucho Marx. [Safire, William, “On Language,” New York Times Magazine, 4-26-2009.] To be sure, thinking about what Groucho says here makes me laugh. A kid would have a good time with this quotation. “Get it?” Get it?”

Few jobs for volunteers are as immediately gratifying as working for the food pantry. At Black Rock Food Pantry, our volunteers often express the sheer joy of being in a job that directly and immediately affects the lives of their neighbors. We assist our clients by supplying them with the foodstuff that might help them to stay hopeful during difficult times.

I had just finished helping a young woman with her bags only to discover that she had a cart, not a car in which I could place her shopping bags of food. Then I saw the three, young children who had been waiting inside, and it was raining. I offered her a ride. She was reluctant, a total stranger who had just bagged her food. So she agreed. And they climbed into my van. When I looked in the rearview mirror as I asked where she lived, I saw that all four were sitting on the back seat of my Dodge van. With arms around her children, she gave me directions. gc

Parents with children ready to give away their picture reading books should consider giving these picture books to the Pantry. Mothers who come to the pantry to feed their families will leave with a book to share with their children. Parents who read to their children teach them to become independent readers. A child who loves to read becomes an independent learner. Better schools have more students who want to learn.

***Thank YOU** donors, friends, cooperative businesses who accept donations, volunteers, CT Food Bank personnel.