Valentine’s Day celebrations begin early for FISH

Valentine’s Day celebrations will begin early this month for FISH and our neighbors in need, with the good news just released in FISH’s Year-End Report of Families Served (see below) and news of the first major food drive of the year coming on February 9, Orion Neighborhood Television’s (ONTV’s) 9th Annual Food Drive.

A record amount of nearly 187,000 pounds of food was distributed to the 170 households that made more than 2,000 shopping trips to the pantry last year to help feed their 400 family members. In addition, more than 100 emergency food boxes were distributed to needy families and individuals as well as local churches and organizations that reach out to help the hungry and the homeless.

“About one-third of our food comes from food drives,” said Ron Wood, who oversees pantry purchasing. ONTV’s upcoming food drive will be the first of this year’s major food drives. (See Bulletin Board, page 3.) Over the years ONTV’s “5 or 5” food drives have contributed more than 30,000 pounds of food to help feed the hungry in our community.

ONTV’s Studio Manager, Joe Johnson, did some advance filming at the food pantry recently to get background footage for the six hours of live coverage ONTV will give this year’s “5 or 5” food drive. Individuals are invited to come to the television studio at the Orion Community Center, 1349 Joslyn Rd., on Feb. 9 to make their food contribution, enter a raffle for prizes and enjoy some of the live family entertainment that will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Inside this Issue:
* Three more pantry shelves are adopted as support grows
* Bulletin board
* ONTV food drive
* Two thank yous
* Prayer line
* Tuesday 4 mornings are work mornings for volunteers

Supporting more than motherhood
Katy Hout may be with Lake Orion/Rochester’s “FIT4MOM” fitness group, however the food donations Brady Phillips helped her carry into the pantry were for more than moms. All FISH clients will benefit. FIT4MOM is the nation’s leading prenatal and postnatal fitness program. From pregnancy, through postpartum and beyond, their programs help make moms strong in body, mind and spirit. (More at fit4mom.com.) Brady is with Phillips Security.

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Online help request

We are looking for help setting up an online sign-up capability for FISH office and pantry volunteers using internet programs such as signupgenius.com. If you have experience in this area and would be willing to help guide our efforts, please call 248-628-3933.

Oxford/Orion FISH food drop-off locations

Following is a list of drop-off locations that can be used to contribute items to the pantry. Contributions can also be dropped off at the Oxford/Orion FISH pantry in Oxford. See our website (oxfordorionfish.org) for specific hours and days of operation at the pantry and the locations shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State, Zip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Orion Post Office</td>
<td>611 N. Axford St.</td>
<td>Lake Orion, MI 48362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Orion Village Offices</td>
<td>22 W. Burdick St.</td>
<td>Oxford, MI 48371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul’s Barber Shop</td>
<td>87 W. Burdick St</td>
<td>Oxford, MI 48371</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Addison Township Offices</td>
<td>1440 Rochester Rd</td>
<td>Leonard, MI 48367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph Catholic Church</td>
<td>714 N. Lapeer Rd.</td>
<td>Lake Orion, MI 48362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King of Kings Lutheran Church</td>
<td>1715 S. Lapeer Rd.</td>
<td>Lake Orion, MI 48360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Orion United Methodist Church</td>
<td>140 E. Flint St</td>
<td>Lake Orion, MI 48361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fLipSpot</td>
<td>233 Kay Industrial Drive</td>
<td>Orion Township, MI 48359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orion Neighborhood Television</td>
<td>1349 Joslyn Rd.</td>
<td>Lake Orion, MI 48360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaumont Medical Building</td>
<td>1455 S. Lapeer Road</td>
<td>Lake Orion, MI 48360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxford Post Office</td>
<td>52 E. Burdick St.</td>
<td>Oxford, MI 48371</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Shelf support grows

*Three more pantry shelves ‘adopted’*

Staff from Lake Orion’s Farm Bureau Insurance brought a double treat to the pantry recently. They helped deliver a large wholesale order from Meijer (photo) and also announced that they will help keep the pantry shelf stocked with dry spaghetti as part of the Adopt-A-Shelf program. *(Pictured by “their shelf” are Wayne Haney, John Lipha and Jodi Hammerstein.)*

Two other donors have recently joined the Adopt-A-Shelf program. Families from Woodside Bible Church have adopted the saltine shelf and a donor who wishes to remain anonymous has adopted Chunky soups. That brings to 19 the number of items that are now cared for by Adopt-A-Shelf donors. For more information on the program, email oxfordorionfish@gmail.com.
The Prayer Line

For our children, our most precious valentines.
In thanksgiving for all the blessings we received in 2018.
In thanksgiving for the support our neighbors in need receive from ONTV.
For our FISH clients, volunteers and their families struggling with cancer and other major hardships.

Almighty God, whose great commandment is that we shall love our neighbors as ourselves, and who has taught us that we should do to others as we would have them do to us, we ask your blessing upon the work and growth of the FISH movement throughout the world. As our purpose is to help our fellow persons, and to promote all that is good in the life of our community, so we pray that you will strengthen our hands in all our undertakings, and that your work may spread the spirit of fellowship and goodwill among all people.

Our pantry wish list for February… includes baked beans; canned chicken, tuna and tomatoes; salad dressing and chicken or beef Rice-A-Roni. Check our website, oxfordorionfish.org, for other items as special needs arise.

Please help Orion Neighborhood Television help us… by encouraging your family and friends to participate in ONTV’s 9th Annual “5 or 5” food drive that will be held on Saturday, February 9. Bring five cans of food or $5 to the ONTV studio at the Orion Community Center on Joslyn Rd. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and enter the raffle for more than a dozen prizes. Live music and family entertainment will be featured on the network throughout the day.

Thank you, Oxford United Methodist Church, … for your gift of mittens for the children of our clients. Your thoughtfulness has warmed many hearts as well as fingers.

Thank you, Oxford Garden Club, … for the food collection you organized as part of your holiday luncheon. It resulted in a jam-packed car load of items delivered to the pantry which helped us put some delightful additions on our pantry shelves for our shoppers.

Oxford/Orion FISH… is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and an equal opportunity provider. For a brochure on the organization, call 248-628-3933, or visit our website at oxfordorionfish.org. You can also visit our page on Facebook (Oxford/Orion FISH - Food Pantry) and help us spread the word on fighting food insecurity by giving us a “like.” It’s another great way to stay in touch with our FISH community and activities.

Our next General Meeting will be held at 9 a.m., Thursday, February 14, at our 1060 S. Lapeer Rd. pantry.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Get your FISHline in full color
Help us “go green” by sending us your email address so you can receive your monthly issue of FISHline electronically. This helps us save on printing and postage and gets our monthly issues to you a little earlier, and with the gift of full-color photos as well. We’ll be happy to add your address to our list. Email us at oxfordorionfish@gmail.org.

Food pantry totals for December
Households served: 188 (9 new clients)
Individuals served: 459
Amount of food: 16,810 pounds
Emergency food boxes picked up: 10 families

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Tuesday mornings are ‘work mornings’ for pantry volunteers

Every Tuesday morning is a work morning for volunteers able to lend a helping hand at the pantry from 9-11 a.m. Deliveries from such places as Meijer, Forgotten Harvest, Gleaners, other drop-off locations and individuals often need to be unloaded and processed. LOFT (Learning Opportunities for Tomorrow) students such as Alex (above) are regular helpers, while other volunteers such as Beverly and Andrina come to help when they can. They are pictured date-checking food donations that have been brought to the pantry. Dave Morten built a large wooden box (behind Beverly and Andrina) to hold the donations until they can be processed.