

## 'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIVING



#### Kids at the Pantry

One of our favorite things this season is seeing the little ones at the pantry with a parent while their bigger siblings are in school. Usually these kiddos are kept occupied with a fresh, juicy apple or, like we saw last week, a peeled banana. This sight makes our hearts so happy, especially since the number of children experiencing extreme poverty is again on the rise.







What's happening

The pantry survives because of a mix of individuals' donations as well as grants specifically for nonprofits. To supplement this, we've partnered with many community partners in the last months to make sure that Extended hands Pantry is forefront in the minds of those who have dollars to give and a heart for service.

# Extended Hands Pantry YOUR NAME HERE Monthly Donor 1 GIVE \$25, \$50, OR MORE A MONTH TO FEED MY NEIGHBORS

Follow the QR codes above to become a monthly donor to our growing pantry. Simply scan the code with your phone's camera app and click on the link that



# BUT WE STILL NEED HELP

#### From the Directors

Are the days and weeks flying by for you? They certainly are for us! It's already time to start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. We continue to see increases in the number of people coming for food assistance, which is up over 80% from a year ago. That much volume means we need to increase the number of volunteers we have too. Did you know that Andy & I (Jenny) are also volunteers? Please come and join us! You can check out our volunteer opportunities on the Get Involved page on our website.

People that are struggling to make ends meet often feel that they need to get to the food pantry very early, to get a nicer selection of foods before the pantry runs out. We strive to prevent that in two ways.

First, we have a random number system set up so people don't need to wait hours for the pantry to open. A few minutes before we start, we hand out random numbers so people know their place in line. Since their place in line is not set until they get their number, they needn't waste as much time waiting, sometimes for several hours.

The second thing we do is find out what foods our shoppers are most interested in. Then we do our best to ensure we have enough of those foods on hand and to not run out of them. This can be quite challenging as the number of families coming continues to increase! Fortunately, we have some storage space offsite that makes it easier to buy food in adequate quantities.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me," Matthew 25:40. Thank you for your part in doing what you do for Jesus!



REVERSE

Rather than receiving a gift each day, an Advent calendar with a twist invites you to join in the spirit of giving! A reverse Advent calendar goes above and beyond the normal festive traditions of December. Instead, it encourages an act of kindness and generosity every day. As we count down to Christmas, be part of this heart-warming experience; share the joy and give back with our Reverse Advent Calendar!

### Advent

Your little box of joy should be dropped off post-Christmas. We'll be available in the week between Christmas and New Year's for deliveries. When it suits you, come by on Tuesday 12/26 between 1-6pm, Thursday 12/28 from 4-6pm, or Friday 12/29 from 9-1pm. If those times don't work, let's schedule an appointment. We're attached to Lighthouse Church and School on Schroeder!



This Giving Tuesday, Andy & Jenny of our Extended Hands Pantry are making it a day to remember! They've promised to match donations up to \$5000 on November 28th. It's the perfect opportunity to join forces with people all across the United States, and 85 countries in total, to make your mark by showing the power of giving. Giving Tuesday will prove that together we can enact meaningful change and invest back into our

communities.





### Extended Hands Pantry, EIN 83-4321269, is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) organization and your contribution is tax deductible.

Every week, Trish\* walks through our pantry doors, usually visiting on Fridays. Despite facing financial challenges, she has never been one to take without giving back. Trish understands the importance of community and the power of compassion. Therefore, she frequently arrives with bags of children's clothes her family has outgrown and toys that are no longer in use at home. In fact, our volunteers have come to expect this act of generosity from her, and they often accompany her to her car to help bring in her donation bags.

While Trish relies on the groceries she takes from our pantry to nourish the hungry bellies in her household, she also recognizes the needs of others. Her thoughtful gifts of children's clothing and toys ensure that other kids in our community are appropriately dressed and have something to play with. We are continually amazed by individuals like Trish, who, despite facing their own financial hardships, find it within themselves to be so incredibly generous.

This holiday season, as we reflect on the blessings in our lives, we invite you to join us in making a difference in the lives of individuals like Trish and the countless others who rely on Extended Hands Pantry for support. Your donation, no matter the size, will help us continue our mission to provide essential groceries and support to those in need in our community.

If Trish, with so little, can give back, can't you?