

# Food Matters

*Helping to end local hunger by ensuring that everyone has access to enough nourishing food, thereby helping our overall community stay healthy and productive.*



**Fall 2018**

## A Story of Appreciation

**Rob and Ann Tovar's story is unique to them, yet like so many others. Here, in their own words, is their story:**

Hi, Everyone. We are the Tovars. I'm Rob and my wife is Ann.

We've been long-time advocates and volunteers, and one-time clients of Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry. We never really realized how important it is to have services like Aurora Food Pantry until we truly needed it. I fell ill several years ago. That led to multiple surgeries and it also led to me missing work and eventually losing my job. That eventually led to losing our home and then, slowly, not being able to provide the essentials, one of those being food. It became challenging to feed our family.

Those were difficult times. Something that could happen to anyone was happening to us. That's when we realized how important it is to have a place like

Aurora Food Pantry within our community. We needed help with food and the Pantry was there for us in our time of need.

Having nutritious, healthy options to eat as a family was a blessing. This was provided to us by Aurora Food Pantry. Even things like toothbrushes and toothpaste were available. Donors often contribute these and other personal care items, so important for good hygiene, but expensive to buy.

After many months, my health problems were resolved and I was able to go back to work. We are grateful to Aurora Food Pantry and to those who support its programs. It helped bridge a gap during a critical period in the life of our family.

Thank you, very much. — **Rob and Ann Tovar**

**"Something that could happen to anyone was happening to us."**

Ann and Rob began volunteering for Aurora Food Pantry as Rob's health improved. They volunteered for several years, wanting to make their own contribution and help support others in need of assistance. Both Ann and Rob are now working and in their own home. Their lives are back on track and they no longer need to visit Aurora Food Pantry for food. We are grateful to them for sharing their story.



Please enjoy our newest video starring the Tovars on the homepage of our website at [www.aurorafoodpantry.org](http://www.aurorafoodpantry.org).

This is what your support means for families like the Tovars. Because of your support - financially, with volunteer hours and with food donations - stories like the Tovar's have happy endings. We all work together to assist families in need. Thank you!

## A Message from the Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Today, I am announcing my retirement at the end of the year as Executive Director of Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry. For ten years, we have

worked together to provide adequate nourishment to every member of our community who needs help putting food on the table. You can be proud that your support has provided healthy, nutritious food to 20,000 people each year, food that would otherwise have been out of reach for the families who visit the Pantry.

I have loved my time at Aurora Food Pantry and am so pleased with what we have been able to accomplish as a community. At this time, however, with a husband who is already retired, I am looking forward to some travel and spending time with grandchildren and other family.

We are in the process of selecting a new Executive Director to continue Aurora Food Pantry's current

successful food distribution programs and assess and meet future needs. I am excited about Aurora Food Pantry's ongoing work toward fulfilling its important mission and anticipate it will continue to respond to community needs in innovative and effective ways.

I would like to thank all who have contributed resources and provided input, assistance and guidance to help Aurora Food Pantry achieve its mission – to help end local hunger by ensuring that everyone has access to enough nourishing food, keeping our overall community healthy and productive. To our volunteers, our food donors, our financial supporters, our governing and advisory board members, our staff, and the entire community, I offer my grateful appreciation for your support.

Thank you, very much!



**Marilyn Weisner**

## Build a Stronger Community - Volunteer!

We need your help building a stronger community and ending local hunger! Every day that we distribute food requires 35-40 volunteers to help make it happen (and there's plenty of work to be done on the other days as well!).

Volunteer opportunities are available on distribution days: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. We also have new, evening distribution hours for volunteers on the third Tuesday of each month from 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm. Various shifts are available including 2 hours, ½ day and the entire day.

Volunteering is a great way to connect with your community, make new friends, and have a whole lot of fun. At Aurora Food Pantry there's a wide variety of jobs to suit all abilities and skills, including sorting food donations, stocking shelves, assisting with distribution, greeting clients, and registering clients on the computer. And don't forget – giving back is more fun with a

group! Get your office, book club, youth group or scout troop together for a heart-warming volunteer experience -- it's a great way to build teamwork while having a good time.

If you're interested in learning more about volunteering, visit our website at [aurorafoodpantry.org/volunteer](http://aurorafoodpantry.org/volunteer) or contact Alejandra at 630-692-3061 or [aroman@aurorafoodpantry.org](mailto:aroman@aurorafoodpantry.org). Hope to see you at the Pantry soon!



## OctoberFeast — Held on October 6th

OctoberFeast was a fun, festive evening and financially the most successful ever, raising more than \$204,000! Proceeds will help fund our Food Distribution, Senior Mobile Pantries, Food For Thought, and Community College Student Lunch Bag programs, helping to ensure that everyone in our community has access to nourishing food. Three hundred fifty guests enjoyed each other's company (as the photos on the back page attest), delicious

German fare, a terrific silent auction, beer, wine and whiskey tastings from local vendors, and an energetic live auction. A heartfelt THANK YOU to our Honorary Co-Chairs John and Joanne Diederich, the Gala Committee, our Sponsors, Program Book advertisers, Raffle Ticket purchasers and Auction Item donors – we couldn't have reached this milestone without you!

## Giving & Giving Back

**The holidays are a season of giving and giving back and we are always amazed at the outpouring of support that occurs this time of year. There are many ways individuals, groups, and businesses can help our hungry neighbors. Check out the list below for ideas, be sure to visit our website, sign-up for our eNews, and follow us on social media for updates.**

### **Thanksgiving Meal Fund, Now – November 21**

For just \$16 you can provide a Thanksgiving dinner – that includes a turkey and all the fixin's – for a local family. You can help everyone in our community have a happy Thanksgiving!

### **Holiday Food Drive, Now – November 21**

When you're doing your weekly grocery shopping, you can give back by purchasing a bag of groceries at Prisco's Family Market on Prairie St, Cermak Fresh Market on N. Lake St. and Food Market LaChiquita on Douglas Rd. in Montgomery for donation to Aurora Food Pantry. We also need volunteers in the stores to greet shoppers – visit Sign-up Genius at <http://bit.ly/volunteeraurora> to choose your time slot(s).

### **Subaru "Share the Love", November 16 – January 2**

Time for a new car? Shop at Gerald Subaru in Naperville and you can select Aurora Food Pantry to receive a \$250 donation from Subaru when you get your new wheels.

### **#GivingTuesday/ILGive, November 27**

You've heard of Black Friday and Cyber Monday? Now there's #GivingTuesday – a national day to give back to your community. You can donate on November 27 at [www.givegab.com/nonprofits/aurora-area-interfaith-food-pantry](http://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/aurora-area-interfaith-food-pantry). Help us get the word out and provide more food, by sharing the link with your family and friends!

### **Pack the Pantry, December 7, from 6-10 pm**

A reception and silent auction of works of art created from paper bags at the "If These Walls Could Talk" art gallery in downtown Aurora. This imaginative event always includes bidding wars benefiting the Pantry!

### **Warm Fuzzies at the End-of-the-Year, December**

Give back in a big way – every \$1 that is donated at the end of the year, December 1-31, will be matched by our generous sponsors. Look for details in your mail and email boxes!



**Another great way to give back? Become a volunteer! Check out the article on the opposite page.**



## Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry

P.O. Box 2602 Aurora, IL 60507

Return Service Requested

# A Story of Appreciation

## OctoberFest 2018!



Each week, 920 families who struggle with low wages, illness, unemployment, and more visit our Pantry. Last year, 3.6 million pounds of food were provided to 20,000 unique individuals, helping to build a stronger community.

Donate [aurorafoodpantry.org/donate](https://aurorafoodpantry.org/donate)

Volunteer [aroman@aurorafoodpantry.org](mailto:aroman@aurorafoodpantry.org)

Visit [www.aurorafoodpantry](https://www.aurorafoodpantry)

Call **630/897-2127**

Follow  @aurorafoodpantry  @aurorapantry  @aurorafoodpantry 

Pantry Location **1110 Jericho Rd, Aurora, IL 60506**

Mailing Address **PO Box 2602, Aurora, IL 60507**

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