

Ontario Chamber of Commerce
July Business of the Month
Ontario Food Pantry
1932 Ridge Road



Tim King states that the Ontario Food Pantry started helping families in Ontario on September 29, 2004. Since our opening night almost six years ago, over 375 families and single households have received help from this outreach. This pantry is still an independent, locally managed organization of volunteers financed by donations of food, money and time from this community. We receive no government aid because we are still just neighbors helping neighbors who need assistance. We supply a safety net of food and personal items for those local families who have found themselves on the edge in these turbulent financial times or are experiencing upheavals in their lives. In special cases we supply food weekly to those families who would go hungry without our assistance.

(L to R, bottom row: Linda Wyse, Tim King, (not pictured: Glen Cone)
Center Row: Valerie Peters, Mary Mathce, Sue Yantch;
Top Row: Kathy Kind, Ken Martin, Jim Switzer)

The volunteers working at the Pantry are rotated between the different local churches and service organizations. We also utilize volunteers who are completing community service hours, the Scouts doing food drives and school youths from nursery to high school who collect, sort, and stock the donated food. Recently we even had a fraternity collect on campus at a local collage for us. We have no paid staff; it is true American Volunteerism that runs this business.

King says I could write a book on the highlights of the past six years and the special moments that have touched me personally because of my affiliation with this organization. There has been sadness too. It seems like whenever someone doesn't need us anymore another family will take their place. No matter how much we give away there will always be someone else who has fallen through the cracks of our society and needs our help. This reality must not cloud our hearts or tarnish our mission. Our vision is that the Ontario Food Pantry will remain an independent, locally run organization of volunteers. It will be financed by public donations, stocked by our community's donated food and dedicated to those who need something nourishing to eat. That is as basic as it is going to get. We all willingly do this because we are called to help each other. We are neighbors helping neighbors.

All of this has been made possible with the great support and cooperation of the residents, organizations, churches and businesses of the Town of Ontario. Businesses like Ginna Power Plant, Trident Precision Manufacturing, Spectra Services and Cams New York Pizza to name a few. Service groups like the Garden Club, Masons and Rotary who donated time, space and people to keep us operating. The Boy and Girl Scouts, Library, public schools and six area churches who all continue to have successful food drives and giving programs. Last but in no way least are the generous residents of the town who have donated money, food, time, prayers and support to this cause. The great thing about this giving program is how contagious it is. The joy that we feel at the Pantry when we give all this food away is tremendous. It is truly one of God's blessings. We give away all that we get in donations and it is only through the generous giving by the residents of this town that we will be able to continue.

The Ontario Food Pantry is open Monday evening from 6:30 to 7:30.

For Ontario residents, a letter of referral may be obtained from any pastor who participates in the Ontario Council of Churches, a health or human services agency, a school nurse, or from the Department of Social Services.