

Exploring Asylum Hill 202 Laurel St

The Give and Take Pantry is a little free food pantry that resides at 202 Laurel Street. It is the response to a call to action last fall from Azua Echevarria: “Who will build one of these little free food pantries in Hartford?”

This community resource is the result of several people meeting through a shared goal: “do something tangible for the common good together.” Azua made the mobilizing post on social media. Asylum Hill residents Carol Padberg and Paul Bartoo answered the call. John Meder, a carpenter and architect who works in Hartford and lives in Pennsylvania constructed the pantry over the winter. And Jordon Conover, the owner of Hartford Fence Company, personally installed the pantry in the spring. And since then many anonymous neighbors have contributed and benefitted.

The pantry recognizes that through one’s life each of us needs help and each of us needs to help. As humans, our fortunes can change in an instant. Food insecurity is a real issue here in Connecticut, even though there is vast material abundance all around us. This structure is part of an infrastructure of abundance.

The custodians of the Give and Take Pantry request that you consider dropping some food by if you can. Maybe you are part of a group that can sponsor a regular donation? Boxes of cereal, mac and cheese, pet food, canned soups and chili are especially popular. So far the Give and take Pantry has helped a lot of people, and reinforced the sense of community to our street.

Stop by anytime at 202 Laurel St, give food – take responsibility; take food –give purpose. What’s your idea to reinforce a sense of community in Asylum Hill?

Send suggestions to info@asylumhill.org

