

The Harbor Springs Community Food Pantry A Brief History

This pantry grew from the times when local farmers would provide excess food for their less fortunate neighbors. Different places became centers for families to access such goods. One of those places was the Harbor Springs United Methodist Church. Tru and Jean Cummings from HSUMC later took over the role of distributing foods and did so until they retired in 2003. They requested help from other area churches and Marcella Fisher, Dick Hendrian, Jim Grogan, Bob Cardinal and Pringle Pfeifer all from Holy Childhood answered. They managed all aspects of the pantry every Monday morning at HSUMC. In 2006, The Harbor Springs Community Food Pantry became a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with Pringle as the Chair.

In 2008, when the U.S. economy took a huge dive resulting in a huge increase in the numbers of local families in desperate need of food assistance. The pantry area at HSUMC was too small to accommodate that increase. At the same time, Holy Childhood had just completed the new Community Center. Father Joe Graff asked Pringle and me if the pantry would consider moving to the Lower Level of the Community Center. After obtaining external funds for all the necessary equipment to manage the storage, refrigeration and stocking of foods, the pantry opened the doors to the Lower Level of the Holy Childhood Community Center for food distribution on the Monday before Christmas of 2009.

This space will have served as our “home” for 10 years this coming Christmas. Everyone in this church has been most welcoming to our patrons in so many ways, not the least of which through the volunteers from Holy Childhood still coming every Monday morning to help since that first call in 2003.

Submitted by Carolyn Sandford