

# Party for the pantry good; more is needed

By Amy Mack | Daily Herald Columnist

Published: 12/14/2007 12:29 AM

Many of us are running around like loons these days, trying to buy and wrap presents atop our already hectic days.

Some of our neighbors aren't shopping at all. They are more worried about finding food to feed their families.

There is, sadly, no shortage of customers at the Algonquin/Lake in the Hills Interfaith Food Pantry and other area pantries any time of year. Fortunately, many people, like Fred and Cheryl Alopogianis of West Dundee, are making sure the shelves aren't empty. Thanks to the Alopogianis' food pantry party Saturday, Dick Hoferle and other pantry volunteers were plenty busy stocking shelves Wednesday.

"It's wonderful," pantry Operations Manager Mary Terese Piemonte said. The Alopogianis' pantry party is one of many creative efforts people have come up with to help. And that's good because the need is sure there.

Some pantry customers are senior citizens who need a bit of help or young families struggling to make ends meet. It could be your neighbor, Mary Terese said. "By the time they take care of mortgage and bills, they're short that month." Many are embarrassed and need to be nudged to the pantry. They just need a utility bill or check to show they live in Algonquin or Lake in the Hills.

You can help

If you would like to help, consider canned fruit, canned pasta, canned tuna or chicken, boxes of potatoes, rice, condiments, spices, crackers, snacks, personal hygiene items, paper and cleaning products, eggs, meat, frozen items, etc. Canned vegetables and macaroni and cheese are stocked up right now and they have a steady donation of bread.

If your family needs a pantry boost, it's open from 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays and every first and third Saturday at 600 E. Oak St. in Lake in the Hills.