

Food pantry recovers from jump in clients

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LAKE IN THE HILLS – The Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Food Pantry saw a huge jump in clients in October, but donations are starting to pick up to meet the need, co-director Kathy Herman said.

In October, the food pantry at 600 Oak St. in Lake in the Hills fed more than 800 people, including 29 new families, Herman said.

The food pantry serves about 550 people in an average month.

“In October there were a number of times when we had some empty shelves,” Herman said. “This is significant because of the economy. Conversations with the clients as they wait for their food to be bagged are leading us to believe that people are struggling.”

Now that school is back in session and community organizations are beginning holiday fundraisers and donation drives for the food pantry, more money and food is coming in, Herman said.

A new drop-off location in Algonquin also has helped the pantry.

Community members can drop off nonperishable food donations at County Line Chiropractic at County Line Road and Merchant Drive in Algonquin from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and from 9 a.m. to noon Fridays, chiropractic assistant Amy D’Agostino said.

The food pantry itself is open only for drop-offs from 9:30 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, Thursdays, and the first and third Saturday of each month.

Herman said the chiropractic office’s proximity to grocery stores and the fact that it had longer hours than the food pantry made it more convenient for some donors.

In addition to nonperishable food items, donations of money and frozen or refrigerated foods always are welcome when the food pantry is open, she added.