



# Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Newsletter

## ***Stewards of Social, Economic & Environmental Sustainability***

The Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry & Clothes Closet mission and vision to overcome food insecurity in the Batavia community is deep-rooted in Social Equity, one of three pillars of Sustainability. What is not often thought about, is how the organization participates in the remaining two pillars of Sustainability; Environmental Health and Economic Vitality.

In the U.S. we throw away 40 percent of our food supply every year, while 12.1 million tons of textiles sit in landfills, contributing to producing large amounts of methane gas, which is 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide, as they degrade. Food and Clothing waste weaken the environmental health of the planet.

The good news? The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet aid in the efforts to reduce those impacts. In January alone, the Food pantry picked up over 31,000 pounds of discarded food from local grocers; Jewel, Target, Walmart, Panera, Aldi's, Trader Joes, and Fresh Market Daily. This includes dairy and frozen meat with today's sell by date, end of life produce, overstocks, holiday related foods and candy once the holiday has passed and marketing blunders. Once sorted, items are available for distribution to pantry families.

## **NEW HOURS Starting April 1!**

Visit our website for a full list of operating and donation drop-off hours.

<http://bataviafoodpantry.org/>

## ***Volunteer Spotlight:***

### ***Patrick MacDonald Boy Scout Troop 43***

**How long have you been volunteering at the food pantry?**

- I've been volunteering for 13-14 years now. I volunteered with my mom when I was younger, but I'm not sure how efficient I was at that time!

**What is your favorite part about volunteering?**

- I enjoy the idea that with school and work, you are working for yourself. But when you are at the Food Pantry, you have a different objective and are working for others.

**How do you spend your time outside of the Food Pantry?**

- I currently attend Columbia College in Chicago and am majoring in Cinema Arts & Sciences. I hope to eventually work on TV, Commercials or Film.

At the end of the week, the pantry is open to everyone, including those who do not live in Batavia, to receive any extras that were not distributed during the week. After this distribution, anything that will not last until next week is thrown away. Typically, only two grocery carts of food per Saturday, and two grocery carts of bread during the week are thrown away. Which is a very small portion of what is donated.

In addition, the Clothes Closet receives many personal and business textile donations. After dropping off the donations, a team of volunteer's sort, shelve or hang the items. If an item does not get chosen by a Clothes Closet client or is not appropriate for the Clothes Closet to give out, the item is donated to the Salvation Army. Men's clothing is passed on to another men's shelter organization. The continuation of the donation cycle keeps these fabric items out of the trash and allows for multiple points of opportunity for the textiles to be reused or recycled.

When the BIFP assists community members facing food insecurity, they help families with a hand up, and empower those in need to be self-sufficient. This enables families to utilize their limited resources to secure housing, pay utility bills, shop at area businesses and contribute to the economic vitality of the community.

Just think, when you donate, you are not only helping your neighbors, you are also contributing positively to the efforts to create a more positive and sustainable future!

### Tell us about your Eagle Scout Project!

- For my Eagle Scout project, I built A-Frame sign stands for the Food Pantry to help with marketing. The Signs are used during many events throughout the year.



Patrick MacDonald with A-frame sign

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### Upcoming Events:

#### Green Night Out at the Movies- *WASTED! The Story of Food Waste*

Date: March 10th

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

Location: Batavia City Hall [100 N Island Ave](#)

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Date: March 24th

Time: 10:00 am

Location: West Main Park Shelter



#### Food Sharing Days

Date: April 14-15

Time: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Locations: *Jewel-Osco & Berkeley Finer Foods*

Volunteer Information:  
Click [here](#) to browse timeslots

*\*\*All events to benefit the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry & Clothes Closet*



Textiles in the Clothes Closet



**100 Flinn Street, Batavia IL 60510**

FOOD PANTRY: 630.879-3784

CLOTHES CLOSET: 630.406-0036

<http://www.bataviafoodpantry.org>

