



Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Newsletter

Getting Your Green Thumb Involved

The Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Clothes closet, relies on the time, effort and commitment of hundreds of dedicated volunteers and donors to meet the needs of the community. But did you know that you can contribute more than just canned goods and shelf stable items to the pantry? We invite local home gardeners to share their bounties by donating any surplus vegetables, fruit, and herbs to the Pantry.

Looking forward to a bumper crop of garden produce? You can donate! Have extra space in your garden? Consider planting an extra row for the pantry!

And to make it even easier this year, a local family has offered to pick up garden donations on Tuesdays or Wednesdays each week starting in June! Simply send an email to:

bataviagardendonation@gmail.com and arrange for your harvested donation to be picked up. As in the past, gardeners are also welcome to bring their own produce to the pantry Tuesday - Friday mornings between 8:30 and noon.

Have you always wanted to start a garden but are too intimidated to start? Here are some tips to help you get started, or get that hardy harvest you've been hoping for.

"There are no gardening mistakes, only experiments."

-Janet Kilburn Phillips

Donor Spotlight:

Bill Kautz

Kautz Farm Co-op

What's the History behind Kautz Farm?

Kautz Farm began in 1864 and I am the 4th generation farmer. I bought the farm from my parents in the 1970's. In the late 40's my parents opened a farm stand on the property and sold vegetables, butter and whipping cream to the community. Any produce that didn't sell at the market was then sold at the Water Street Market in Chicago.

How much Produce have you donated to the Food Pantry?

This past year, we donated about 10,000 pounds of produce, from about 75 acres of Garden. Everything grown and donated is 100% organic.

1. Pick a spot with lots of sunlight - Six hours per day of direct sunlight is the minimum requirement for optimum vegetable growth.
2. Pick a spot with good drainage - Plant roots need air in addition to water. Ensuring that the planting soil drains properly will provide your vegetables with the water and air it needs to grow.
3. Space your plants apart - It is recommended that plants be spaced about 10 to 12 inches apart from one another.
4. Water your plants in the early morning or in the evening - The roots of plants soak up more water when it is cooler. Leaves can dry up more easily in hot weather, so be sure to water more often on hot days.
5. Be patient! - Monitor your plants regularly, but enjoy the process as you watch your garden grow!



Fresh Produce Donated by Green Earth Institute and The Conservation Foundation

To see a list of our most needed items or to make a monetary donation to the pantry, visit

www.bataviafoodpantry.org

100 Flinn Street, Batavia IL 60510

FOOD PANTRY: 630.879-3784

CLOTHES CLOSET: 630.406-0036

<http://www.bataviafoodpantry.org>

Why do you choose to donate to the pantry?

I believe its my responsibility to grow the best possible food, with the best possible tools in order to feed those who are hungry. It's important as a society to get to a 'society of we' and not 'me', so I am doing what I can to contribute to that.

What's on the Horizon for Kautz Farm Co-op?

We are looking to partner with the University of Illinois Extension to teach on the property, as well as become a 501(c)(3). My goal is to leave a legacy of food. Food that is healthy, and free of pesticides and chemicals and is safe for people to eat.



Kautz Farm Co-op

Upcoming Events: **Food Sharing Days**

Date: July 21-22

Location: **Trader Joe's**

Farmer's Market

Date: August 18th

Time: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: North River St. between Wilson and State St. ***All events to benefit the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry & Clothes Closet*

