



Inter Parish Ministry

Fall 2019



When Bevin moved to Cincinnati seven years ago with her two young daughters, she felt hopeless, but she was determined to make a better life for her children. Although she had extensive work experience, Bevin learned that she would need additional training to obtain a similar job in her new home, but she did not give up. Bevin found two jobs to get by: one as a waitress and another as a personal caregiver for an elderly gentleman. She also began nursing school.

“On Saturday night,” Bevin described, “I would often go to work thinking about my kids, knowing exactly how many tips I needed to pay our rent for the month.”

When a friend told Bevin about IPM Food Pantry, she felt apprehensive, “I worried about what people would think, but my family was in need, so I walked through the pantry doors.”

Once inside the pantry, volunteers treated Bevin with care and concern, and she never felt judged for her situation. Rather, she explained, “The volunteers were so welcoming, and I was relieved that I could count on the pantry for the food my family needed.” Knowing people cared for her helped Bevin get out of bed each morning and persevere toward her goals.

Today, Bevin has completed her nursing degree and works full time for a dialysis center. She has also become a regular volunteer at the Newtown Pantry. With one day off each week, she thought, “There is no better way to give back than to volunteer my time at the IPM Pantry, where I found a sense of dignity and hope when I needed it most.”

A REASON FOR HOPE

“When I came to IPM, the volunteers treated me like a human being, with dignity and kindness. I felt no different than a valued customer in a grocery store. I never left feeling ashamed and guilty, as I imagined I would, but rather that this was a step toward being more independent. I was given hope.”

Bevin, mother of two



Inside this issue, read more about our four community gardens...

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IPM's Mission:

To provide food, clothing and other communal support to those in need, and to empower clients with information, support and services to improve their lives.

Food for Thought...

Just pause for a moment and think about what life must be like when you don't know where your next meal will come from. According to Feeding America, 40 million people in the U.S. today face hunger—including neighbors right here in our own community, neighbors like senior citizens living on a fixed income, grandparents facing the daunting task of raising their grandchildren and individuals experiencing a disabling injury or illness.

With YOUR help, IPM is building food security for those in need. Your gifts allow us to expand food access points beyond the two food pantries in Amelia and Newtown. IPM brings food to families through our pop-up food pantries, community gardens at affordable housing complexes and over a dozen schools where healthy snack packs are provided to students.

When families utilize IPM they trust they can count on us not only for non-perishable foods, but also for fresh produce, dairy, bread and meat. Knowing that IPM provides convenient food access gives clients a sense of hope and peace in moments of crisis.

By supporting IPM, YOU have the power to continue to build food security for families in need.

Blessings,

Alida



Bountiful Harvest from FOUR Community Gardens

If you visit IPM's Amelia Food Pantry, you will see a community garden, but did you know that IPM maintains three additional gardens, two of which are onsite at affordable housing complexes? Our four gardens provide fresh fruits and vegetables for IPM families all summer long. Many families in need are able to harvest fresh produce from IPM gardens where they live. At these locations clients gain ownership as they tend these gardens. Healthy food from IPM gardens provides an invaluable food access touchpoint and delicious tomatoes, peppers, and melons!

Spotlight on Our Pantry Partner: Park National Bank



Years ago, Cyndy Wright Sellers was drawn to IPM Food Pantry for its commitment to providing food to families in crisis. As time passed, she became involved with the board,

because IPM's vision to feed families and nourish souls resonated with her. Cyndy's involvement at IPM sparked a shared interest at her workplace, Park National Bank, a community bank which intentionally engages with the neighborhoods around its branches. Because Park National Bank prides itself in supporting the service endeavors of its employees, it soon became a Pantry Partner of IPM.

Each fall, Park National Bank dedicates an entire week to community involvement. They have aptly named the initiative "Park Cares Week," when every employee at the bank takes time away from the office and joins a collaborative volunteer effort to make a positive impact. Cyndy explained that at Park National Bank, "We want to be visible and we want to be available. Caring about the community is built into our culture."

For Cyndy, her proudest moment as an IPM board member was the transition to becoming a 30-day pantry and finding ways to source food at lower prices. Cyndy was thrilled that IPM was able to broaden food access points for families in need, "We stepped out in faith and said we can do this."



You Have the Power to Make an Impact



GIVE TIME

- Total number of volunteer hours each year is equivalent to 8 full-time employees
 - 1 volunteer hour = 54 Meals



PROVIDE FOOD AND CLOTHING

- Individual or Neighborhood Collection Drives
 - School or Business Collection Drives



DONATE

Every \$1 = 3 Meals

- Individual Giving
- Event Sponsorships
- Corporate Giving
- Planned Giving



Inter Parish Ministry
 3509 Debolt Rd.
 Cincinnati, OH 45244
 513-561-3932
 interparish.org



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THANK YOU!

Please join us in recognizing IPM's Pantry Partners. Their support means the world to us.

Dawn Management | Doscher's Candies | Gardner Business Media, Inc. | Kroger | Lykins Energy Solutions | The Motz Group | Ohio Valley Productions | Park National Bank | Savor Seasonings, LLC | Todd and Mary Rita Washburn | Jeff Wyler Family Foundation | Zimcom Internet Solutions

Save the Date

Pop-Up Food Pantries

- October 11: St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
- November 16: Mt. Carmel Christian Church

Christmas Cookie Caper for IPM

- December 14: St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Adopt-A-Family Distribution

- December 14: Anderson Hills United Methodist Church

Christmas Toy Store

- December 16-17: Amelia Food Pantry

Dan Varner Concert to Benefit IPM

- December 21: Jimmy B's Bar and Grill, Anderson Township

To volunteer or to learn more about any of IPM's upcoming events, please contact Merry Leone at merry@interparish.org.



Building food security for students in need through our Pop-Up Pantry at UC Clermont.

Critical Pantry Needs:

- Canned Soup
- Breakfast Items
- Canned Meat
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Beans
- Canned Pasta
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Paper Towels and Toilet Paper
- Shampoo and Conditioner